633

POOR LAW (IRELAND.)

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons dated 29 March 1844;—*for*,

I.

COPIES of any GENERAL ORDER sent by the Poor Law Commissioners to Boards of Guardians in *Ireland*, in reference to the 15th and 16th Clauses of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

II.

COPIES of any COMMUNICATIONS made by the Poor Law Commissioners to any Boards of Guardians in *Ireland*, in reference to the 15th and 16th Clauses of the said Act; —Of any RESOLUTIONS passed by any Boards of Guardians in *Ireland*; or of any COMMUNICATIONS made by such Boards, in reference to said 15th and 16th Clauses of the said Act.

III.

RETURNS of the Number of FEVER PATIENTS Relieved under the 15th Clause of the said Act, and of the Number Relieved under the 16th Clause, up to the 1st day of March 1844;—Of the Number of HOUSES Hired for the Reception of Poor Persons in FEVER, under the 16th Clause of the said Act, and the Names of the Unions in which they have been Hired.

Poor Law Commission, 1 June 1844.

ARTHUR MOORE, Chief Clerk.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 4 *June* 1 44.

I.

COPIES of any GENERAL ORDER sent by the Poor Law Commissioners to Boards of Guardians in *Ireland*, in reference to the 15th and 16th Clauses of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

— Nil. —

II.

COPIES of any COMMUNICATIONS made by the Poor Law Commissioners to any Boards of Guardians in *Ireland*, in reference to the 15th and 16th Clauses of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92;—Of any RESOLUTIONS passed by any Boards of Guardians in *Ireland*; or of any COMMUNICATIONS made by such Boards in reference to said 15th and 16th Clauses of the said Act.

EXTRACT from Circular sent to every Union in *Ireland*, dated 2 September 1843.

"SECTIONS 14, 15, 16 and 17, authorize certain branches of expenditure by the guardians which had not been previously provided for by law. These and other alterations in the law which have been effected by this statute, make it desirable that the Commissioners should revise the forms and documents heretofore used in connexion with the accounts of the union; and it is their intention to address the guardians further on this subject, previously to the close of the current half year.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Extract from Circular sent to every Union in *Ireland*, dated 25 September 1843.

2. "The alteration of the law effected by the statute 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, together with other reasons, has rendered it desirable that certain particulars should be added to the above abstract, which are not provided for in the order for keeping accounts issued by the Commissioners to the unions in Ireland. That order is at present undergoing a careful revision on the part of the Commissioners, with a view to its simplification and amendment, and in the meantime the Commissioners are desirous that you should forthwith adopt the amended form of abstract, 5 C, three copies of which are now sent for your use, for the half year which will terminate on the 29th instant."

3. "Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the recent statute amending the Irish Poor Relief Act, may lead to certain items of expenditure by the guardians which had not previously been provided for, and the Commissioners deem it right, therefore, to inform you of the proper mode of charging such expenditure in the accounts, in order that uniformity may be obtained in this respect throughout the several unions in Ireland."

5. II. "The cost of conveyance of any destitute poor person from the workhouse of the union to any fever hospital or lunatic asylum, and the cost of maintaining any such destitute poor person in such fever hospital, will be charged also to the electoral division, or to the union, in accordance with the entry on the register, and in these cases it is clearly contemplated by the Act, that the persons to be removed should be previously inmates of the workhouse."

6. III. "The cost of hiring or renting any houses which may be taken by the guardians for the reception or medical treatment of poor persons afflicted with fever, or other contagious disease, will be properly charged to the establishment account; but the maintenance and relief of such persons therein will be charged in the same manner as if the relief were afforded in the workhouse, and any house or houses so hired or rented, should be deemed in this respect as part and parcel of the workhouse establishment of the union, and the persons admitted to be maintained therein should be entered on the general register in the same manner as the other inmates of the establishment."

Note.—A further circular on the subject of the mode of charging the various items in the Union accounts, was issued on the 25th March 1844, and with it was sent an extract from the circular of the 25th September 1843, such extract comprising the extract given above.

Abbeyleix Union.

ABBEYLEIX UNION.

No. 18323, D/43.

Copy of Resolution of Board Guardians, 6 October 1843.

Moved by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. W. W. Despard:

Resolved, That fever patients, admitted under the 6th and 7th Vict. c. 92, are placed to the charge of the union at large, and not to the particular division in which they reside; that other paupers have been put on the union at large, when they should be placed on a particular division; that the amended Act above referred to, sect. 12, says, that whenever any person, after quitting the workhouse of the union, is again admitted within six months, the expense incurred in respect of such person shall be borne and charged in the same manner as before his so quitting the workhouse, we therefore request the clerk to apply to the Commissioners to have their opinion how the Board can rectify the error above alluded to, of having persons charged to the union at large, when they should be charged to a particular division.

Amendment proposed by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Lalor:

Resolved, That inasmuch as we conceive that the paupers in this house are properly charged, we think it unnecessary to take notice of them; and if the guardians generally would give more constant attendance to the stated meetings, they would be better satisfied with the decisions.

The question was put, and a division called for:

For the amendment - - - - -	6
For the original motion - - - - -	2
Majority for the amendment - - - -	4

Which the chairman declared to be carried.

No. 19788, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 26 October 1843.

Moved by Mr. Edmond White, seconded by Mr. Wm. Delany, and carried unanimously:

Resolved, That inasmuch as this union is without any fever hospital for its sick poor when attacked with fever or other contagious disease, we therefore consider it expedient that hospital relief be as soon as possible afforded, as the best means of checking the spread of

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

of fever amongst the cabins and houses of the labouring poor, and consequently rendering destitution from that cause less frequent.

We therefore consider it desirable to take the proper legal means, by availing ourselves of the opportunity afforded by the 16th clause in the Poor Law Amendment Bill, for providing hospital accommodation and medical treatment for poor people attacked with fever or other contagious disease, and for this purpose we propose to rent from the Loan Fund Trustees, the adjoining fever-house, containing 6 fever wards, 1 kitchen, 1 laundry, 2 store-rooms, 1 bath-room, 1 water-closet, 1 dead-house, 1 turf-store, and straw-house, altogether capable of containing and accommodating 50 patients, provided the same can be obtained on terms considered as advantageous to the union by the Board of Guardians.

Moved by Mr. Despard, seconded by Mr. Lyster:

Resolved, That in consideration of the additional labour and duty imposed on the medical officer, Dr. Boxwell, by his attendance at the proposed fever hospital, it is the opinion of this Board that the salary of the medical officer should be raised to 80 *l.* per annum, which is resolved accordingly.

Amendment moved by Mr. Dunne, seconded by Mr. Keenan:

Resolved, As an amendment, that the salary of Dr. Boxwell should be 60 *l.* per annum.

The questions were put, and a division called for, when there appeared—

For the original motion - - - - - - -	10
For the amendment - - - - - - - -	4
Majority for the original motion - - - - - -	6

Whereupon the chairman declared the original motion carried.

The medical officer being conferred with, expressed the opinion that a properly qualified paid nurse, and a porter, would be all the permanent staff necessary for the new fever hospital. It was moved by Mr. Despard, seconded by Mr. Bailey, and carried unanimously:

Resolved, That a nurse and porter be hereafter appointed, and that the salary of the nurse be 10 *l.* per annum, and that of the porter 8 *l.* per annum, both with paupers' rations.

Moved by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Despard, and carried unanimously:

Resolved, That Dr. Sheppard be appointed apothecary to the fever hospital, with an increased salary of 10 *l.* per annum.

Moved by Mr. W. Delany, seconded by Mr. Lyster, and carried unanimously:

Resolved, That the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to prescribe, at their earliest convenience, the regulations under which poor persons are to be received into the proposed fever hospital, under the 16th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

Dr. Boxwell, one of the trustees of the fever hospital, intimated to the Board that, in order to facilitate the opening of the fever wards, he was authorized by Lord De Vesci, the Honourable Mr. Vesey, and the Honourable and Reverend Mr. Wingfield, his co-trustees, to offer the fever wards to the guardians at a yearly rental of not exceeding one-half of the ground-rent, which was 4 *l.* The guardians unanimously resolved to accept the proposed offer.

No. 19788, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners, in reference to the above Resolutions.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 8 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Abbeyleix Union on the 26th ult., and have directed me to express their approval of the proposal to take the fever hospital adjoining the workhouse, for the reception of poor persons labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious disease, in pursuance of the provisions of the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, at a rent not exceeding one-half of the ground-rent, amounting to 4 *l.* per annum.

The Commissioners also approve of the proposed increase of the salary of the medical officer of the workhouse, to 80 *l.* per annum, and of the salary of the apothecary to 30 *l.* per annum, and of the proposed appointment of a nurse and porter to the fever hospital.

The Commissioners will take an early opportunity of communicating with the Board of Guardians on the subject of the regulations respecting the fever hospital.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Abbeyleix Union.

No. 20755, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 9 November 1843.

THE clerk read the following notice of motion, which was handed to him after the last meeting of the Board.

Notice of motion given by Patrick Lalor, to the effect, that inasmuch as the house rented from Lord De Vesci, the Honourable Thomas Vesey, the Honourable and Reverend Mr. Wingfield, to be used as fever wards for this workhouse, has a right to be considered a portion

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ABBEYLEIX UNION.

a portion of the workhouse, being under the control and management of the Commissioners and guardians, and the expense of such fever wards to be paid out of the poor rate; such being the case, he is of opinion that any rise in the physician's and apothecary's salaries is uncalled for, inasmuch as by their proposals they are bound to give all necessary attendance on the sick poor at the respective salaries of 40 *l.* and 20 *l.*, as in said proposals set forth: "I hereby give notice, that I will on this day fortnight move the Board to rescind the resolution of the Board, entered into on the last day of meeting, raising the salary of the physician to 80 *l.*, and that of the apothecary to 30 *l.* a year, and in lieu of which, to make each what it was before, namely, 40 *l.* a year to the physician, and 20 *l.* a year to the apothecary.

"2 November 1843. (signed) *Patrick Lalor.*"

No. 21154, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 16 November 1843.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon as follows: That the clothes of the fever patients be washed on the premises at the fever hospital.

The medical officer having reported that a man named Fitzpatrick, admitted during the week, in fever, was brought into hospital in a very wet state, his covering completely saturated with rain, and consequently in a most exhausted state, from which he never rallied; after discussion, it was moved by Mr. Edmund S. Delany, seconded by Mr. White, and carried unanimously, That a covered car be provided for bringing fever patients to the hospital, to be stationed at the workhouse hospital, and to be procured at the expense of the union.

Mr. Lalor, in pursuance of notice, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Gorman:

Resolved, That the resolutions of the 26th ultimo, raising the medical officer's and apothecary's salaries to 80 *l.* and 30 *l.* a year, be rescinded, and that each be what it was before, namely, 40 *l.* a year to the physician, and 20 *l.* a year to the apothecary.

Amendment moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Bell:

Resolved, That this Board will not attempt to disturb the appointment of the doctor and apothecary to the fever hospital with the salaries as fixed at a former meeting, and they regret any resolution should be brought forward disapproving of the arrangements then entered into, as they consider them advantageous to the union, and likely to be most beneficial to those afflicted with contagious disease, and for which they believe themselves indebted to the great exertions of Dr. Boxwell.

After discussion, the question was put and a division called for, when there appeared—

For the amendment - - - - - - - -	8
For the original motion - - - - - - -	12
Majority for the original motion - - - - - -	4

Which the chairman declared to be carried.

No. 21154, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners to the Guardians.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 22 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Abbeyleix Union on the 16th instant, containing a resolution proposing to rescind the resolutions passed on the 26th ultimo to raise the salary of the medical officer of the workhouse to 80 *l.* per annum, and the salary of the apothecary to 30 *l.* per annum.

In reference to this resolution, the Commissioners have directed me to state, that they have sanctioned the increase of the salaries of the officers above-mentioned, on the supposition that such increase was fit and proper, and in accordance with the resolutions of the Board of Guardians to that effect, and the report of the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the union thereon.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners must decline to change their views upon this subject, and the salaries will therefore remain as previously sanctioned.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Abbeyleix Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 21543, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 November 1843.

MOVED by Mr. Stubber, seconded by Mr. Despard:

Resolved, That we have read with great pleasure the letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, refusing to rescind the vote of the Board of Guardians of the 26th October, giving an

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

an increase of salaries to the medical officers in proportion to their increased duties for attending the recently established fever hospital. After discussion, the question was put and a division called for, when there appeared—

For the motion - - - - - - -	9
Against - - - - - - - -	7
Majority for the motion - - - - -	2

Which the chairman declared carried.

Moved by Mr. Lalor, seconded by Mr. Gorman:

Resolved, That the resolution proposed by Mr. Despard, doubling the physician's salary on the 26th October last, was carried by a Board composed of only 15 members, and the rescinding of that resolution was carried by a Board composed of 20 members; we therefore think that the Commissioners not sanctioning the latter resolution is extravagant, unwise, despotic, and uncourteous to this Board of Guardians.

The question was put, and a division called for, when there appeared,

For the motion - - - - - - -	7
Against the motion - - - - - -	7

The chairman gave his casting vote against the motion, which he declared to be lost.

Moved by Mr. Stubbs, seconded by Mr. Roberts, and carried unanimously:

Resolved, That the cases of persons admitted provisionally in fever into the fever hospital be brought before the next meeting of the guardians, with a view to ascertain to what division they are properly chargeable; as at present they are all charged to the union at large, which we consider is not according to law.

No. 21543, D/43.

EXTRACT from Letter to the Board of Guardians, dated 29 November 1843.

WITH respect to the resolution to bring before the guardians, at their next meeting, the cases of persons admitted provisionally in fever, and sent to the fever hospital, I am to request the attention of the Board of Guardians to the Commissioners' letter of the 25th September last, paragraphs 5 & 6. *See* p. 2.

No. 22398, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 December 1843.

THE minute of the 26th October last, relative to the appointment of a porter and nurse-tender to the fever hospital was read; whereupon it was moved by Mr. Despard, seconded by Mr. Stubber, and carried unanimously, That Mathew Murphy be appointed porter, and Anne Lalor nurse-tender, they having been strongly recommended by the medical officer, at the salaries named on the 26th October, namely, 8 *l.* per year for the porter, and 10 *l.* per year for the nurse-tender, with the following rations for each; viz. 1 ½ lb. bread, 3 ½ lbs. potatoes, one quart new milk daily, and 4 oz. tea and 1 lb. sugar weekly.

No. 22398, D/43.

LETTER to the Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Abbeyleix Union on the 7th instant; and have directed me to convey their sanction to the appointment of Mathew Murphy, as porter, and Anne Lalor, as nurse-tender to the fever hospital; the former at a salary of 8 *l.*, the latter at a salary of 10 *l.* per annum.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Abbeyleix Union.

No. 23227, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 December 1843.

ON the admission of paupers, the cases of six persons admitted provisionally during the week, and sent to the hospital, was taken into consideration; when Mr. White moved, and Mr. John Mulhall seconded, That those admitted in fever be charged to the union at large.

Mr. Stubber moved an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Dunne, That Jeremiah Ryan, one of the fever cases, be charged to the Aghaboe division, as he was charged to that division when in the house before, which is within the six months prescribed by law.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ABBEYLEIX UNION.

The amendment was put by the chairman, and a division called for, when there appeared,

For the amendment - - - - - - - -	5
Against it - - - - - - - - - -	13
Majority against the amendment - - - - - -	8

It was then put and carried, that Jeremiah Ryan be charged on the union at large.

A second amendment was then moved by Mr. Stubber, seconded by James Dunne, That the persons admitted in fever, be charged to the divisions in which they were resident. The question was put, and a division called for, when there appeared,

For the amendment - - - - - - - -	
Original motion - - - - - - - - -	
Majority for amendment - - - - - - -	

The remaining cases where then charged to the respective electoral divisions in which they were resident.

Moved by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Phelan:

Resolved, That it will be necessary from and after the 1st January next, that all paupers applying to be admitted into the fever hospital, shall bring a certificate from either a guardian, a clergyman, a magistrate, or a dispensary physician, stating to what electoral division they belong; and that notices be printed and put up at the several churches and chapels in the union to the above effect.

After discussion, the Board divided, when there appeared,

For the motion - - - - - - - - - -	13
Against - - - - - - - - - - -	2
Majority for the motion - - - - - - - -	11

Which the chairman declared to be carried.

No. 23227, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners to the Guardians.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 3 January 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration, minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Abbeyleix Union on the 21st ultimo, and with reference to the resolutions on the subject of the mode of charging the relief afforded to persons labouring under fever, the Commissioners have directed me to request the attention of the Board of Guardians to the circular addressed to them on the 18th November last, on the chargeability of paupers generally.

With respect to the resolution that all paupers applying to be admitted to the fever hospital, shall bring a certificate regarding the electoral division to which they belong, I am to state, that the guardians are right in procuring every information on the subject of the chargeability of persons admitted into the workhouse; but that they must determine the allocation of the persons admitted, who are labouring under fever, in the usual manner, by approving or correcting the register, under the 43d section of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

* * * * *

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Abbeyleix Union.

The following is a Copy of the Circular above referred to.

No. 408, M/43.

CHARGEABILITY OF PAUPERS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 18 November 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had occasion to consult one of the law officers of the Crown, as to the proper construction to be put upon the provisions of the 12th and 13th sections of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, (6 & 7 Vict. c. 92,) considered with reference to the 42d, 43d, and 44th sections of the original Act, (1 & 2 Vict. c. 56,) so far as they relate to the chargeability of paupers to the union at large, or to the electoral divisions in which they may have been resident, respectively. For this purpose the Commissioners have submitted several questions to the Solicitor-general for Ireland for his opinion and advice; and I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit his opinion on the following points, for the information and guidance of the Board of Guardians in registering inmates of the workhouse on their admission, and in charging the expenses of their maintenance.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Questions.

1. Whether the guardians can charge the whole of the current half year's maintenance (*i. e.* half year ending 29th September 1843,) of any pauper who was in the workhouse at the time of the passing of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, to the electoral division in which he was stated in the register to be resident, but in which he had not occupied a tenement or usually slept for 12 calendar months, during the 18 months previous to his admission to the workhouse, or whether the new sense given to the word "resident," is intended to apply only to the cases of persons admitted to the workhouse after the passing of the Act?

Opinion.

1. In my opinion, the 12th section of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, does not apply to persons who were in the workhouse at the time of the passing of the Act, but to those only who have been subsequently admitted.

The provisions of 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56, relative to the register book, are not repealed by 6 & 7 Vict. On the contrary, it is manifest from the 13th section that the register book is to continue to be the document according to which the liabilities of the union and of the electoral divisions respectively, are to be regulated. When the 12th section, therefore, enacts that no person shall, after the passing of the Act, "be deemed" to have been resident in the electoral division unless during 12 of the 18 calendar months before his admission he shall have occupied a tenement, &c. in the division,—I understand the words "shall be deemed" to mean "shall be registered, as if;" that is, when upon the admission of a pauper after the passing of the Act, the register book shall be made up, such pauper shall not be entered in the book as resident, or having been resident in the electoral division, unless such residence shall have been for 12 months during the 18 months before his admission.

It is true that the words of the 12th section are very comprehensive, but unless they be irreconcilable with a merely prospective operation, I think that the reason of the thing, and the other enactments, require that they should be so confined. The guardians, in my opinion, have no authority whatever to alter any register book, when once approved of according to the 43d section of the first Act,* and this appears to me to be a strong ground for concluding that the Act of 6 & 7 Vict. was not intended to apply retrospectively; for the effect would be, so far as relates to appeals, in some cases to render an appeal impossible, although the register book might be wrong; and in others to vitiate the register book by *ex post facto* legislation, and thus create an error, necessarily charging with costs either the party appealing or the union or division.

* 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56.

I am, therefore, of opinion, that so far as relates to persons admitted before the passing of the 6 & 7 Vict., the word "resident" ought not to receive the construction given to it by that Act; and that the guardians should, as heretofore, charge the electoral division according to the entry in the register book at the time of admission.

2. Whether the proviso quoted from the 12th section (namely, that "whenever any person, after quitting the workhouse of any union, is again admitted within the space of six calendar months, the expense incurred in respect of such person shall be borne and charged in the same manner as before his so quitting the workhouse,") applies to persons discharged from the workhouse before the 24th August (the date of the Act), but admitted subsequently to that date, and within six months from their discharge, or whether it applies only to persons discharged from the workhouse since the passing of the Act?

2. In my opinion the clause in the 12th section of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, relating to the re-admission of paupers within six months after the discharge, applies not to persons discharged prior to the passing of the Act, but only to those discharged subsequently.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ABBEYLEIX UNION.

3. Whether, on the admission of a pauper within six months after his previous discharge, he is to be entered in the register as "resident" within the same electoral division in which he was entered as "resident" previously to his discharge, although he have not been so "resident" in the new sense given to that word by this section?

3. I think that upon the re-admission of a pauper within six months after his discharge, he ought to be registered as resident in the electoral division in which he was originally registered, although he may not be, upon such re-admission, resident in that division within the definition of the term "resident," given by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

4. If a person be described in the register as resident in any electoral division in which he has not been "resident" in the new sense, have the guardians power to alter the description, or can the alteration be made only upon appeal?

4. I do not think that the guardians have any power of altering a description in the register, when once finally corrected and signed, according to the 43d section of 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56.

5. If upon the re-admission of a pauper within six months after quitting the workhouse, it should appear to the guardians, that on his first admission he had been registered on a division he had no claim to, is it absolutely necessary that such an error should be continued under the 12th section of the Amendment Act?

5. In case it shall manifestly appear that the entry in the register was originally erroneous, (according to the law then in force as to the definition of residence,) I should say, that the guardians are not bound to continue such error. The words "in the same manner as before his so quitting the workhouse," which occur in the 12th section, may, with reference to this question, be fairly construed as "chargeable according to the same rule as would have regulated his chargeability before his quitting the workhouse;" in other words, that the mode of charging should be, what according to law it ought to have been before his quitting.

6. In reference to the last question it is to be observed, that if the pauper be not described as resident in any electoral division, but be assigned to the union at large, no appeal is given to the union in any case in which the pauper ought to have been described as resident in some one of the electoral divisions; and your opinion is requested,

Whether, in such a case, the guardians can consider and alter the register after it has been signed, and allocate the pauper to some electoral division instead of the union at large?

6. But if the error has been, in fact, continued, and the new register completed, I do not think that the register can be altered by the guardians, or otherwise than on appeal.

7. In considering the new meaning which has been given to the term "resident" in this section:—

The words "usually slept" appear to be applicable to all electoral divisions without exception; and it is expected that this will bear hardly upon the electoral division in which the workhouse is situate, notwithstanding the provision regarding the return to the workhouse before six months from the time of discharge, which seems to have been meant to protect that division. You are requested, therefore, to advise further,

Whether a pauper will be held, for the purposes of this section, to have slept within the electoral division in which the workhouse is situate during the time of his residence and sleeping in the workhouse?

7. The words "usually slept" refer to the sleeping of the pauper out of the workhouse, and not to his residence as a pauper in the workhouse.

(signed) *Richard W. Greene.*

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians
of the Union.

No. 799, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 January 1844.

MOVED by Mr. Lalor, seconded by Mr. Mulhall, and carried unanimously:

Resolved, That the clerk do write to Dr. Dunne to request that he will not any more send paupers here in fever who do not reside in the union, as any resident out of the union will not be admitted.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 1339, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 18 January 1844.

A POLICE sergeant attended the Board, having John Dullard of Bawnoughan, in custody, for deserting his children, and leaving them inmates of the workhouse; and it appearing to the Board that the prisoner was a sickly wretched looking man, he was examined by the medical officer, who reported that he was labouring under fever, whereupon the magistrate discharged the warrant, and the Board ordered him to be admitted and sent to the fever hospital.

No. 6556, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 March 1844.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon as follows: That the medical officer's report be inserted on the minutes.

Medical Officer's Report.

In workhouse hospital last week - - - - - - 38
Discharged well, five. Died, none.

In fever hospital last week - - - - - - - 34
Discharged well, seven. Died, none.

I regret to say that fever has made its appearance amongst the women and children; I had to remove nine women and children to the fever hospital last week. I attribute this to its overcrowded state.

(signed) *Wm. Boxwell.*

No. 6556, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 27 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Abbeyleix Union on the 21st instant, containing a report from the medical officer, in which he expresses his regret that fever has made its appearance amongst the women and children, and states that he attributes the occurrence of fever to the overcrowded state of the women's and children's ward.

In reference thereto the Commissioners have directed me to state that they very much regret the occurrence of fever, as mentioned in the medical officer's report; and they must draw the especial attention of the guardians to the cause assigned by the medical officer for the appearance of the disorder, namely, the overcrowded state of the women's and children's wards. The practice which has been adopted by the guardians of admitting the wives and children of men into the workhouse without requiring the men themselves also to enter the establishment, is one which the Commissioners have heretofore objected to on several occasions; and the Commissioners cannot but again revert to the subject of that practice, inasmuch as it probably has some connexion with the alleged overcrowded state of that department of the house which is appropriated to females and children.

The attention of the guardians is therefore again urgently requested to the propriety of discontinuing that practice, and also to the consideration whether some of the persons so admitted may not be discharged from the workhouse on the ground that their husbands and fathers are able to support them.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Abbeyleix Union.

No. 7221, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 March 1844.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon, as follows:

That the medical officer's report be entered on the minutes.

Medical Report.

In workhouse hospital last week - - - - - - 39
Discharged, seven. Died, one.—Mary Malone, who came into the house in the last stage of consumption, died.

In the fever hospital last week - - - - - - - 44
Discharged well, ten. Died one.—Margaret Dunn, a very old inmate of the workhouse, died of typhus fever.

Cases of fever still continue in the workhouse; 10 were removed to fever hospital since last report.

(signed) *Wm. Boxwell.*

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ARDEE UNION.

ARDEE UNION.

No. 16410.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 September 1843.

Notice of Motion by Mr. O'Reilly,

THAT this Board do proceed to take into consideration on Tuesday next, the 12th instant, the 16th section of the 6th and 7th of the Queen, chap. 92, with a view to providing with the least possible delay the relief contemplated by the Act, and so urgently required by the sick poor of the union.

(signed) *Rob. Munkitterich*, Clerk.

No. 16864, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 September 1843.

MR. O'REILLY having brought a question before the Board upon the 15th and 16th sections of the Poor Law Amendment Act, relative to providing aid for poor persons affected with fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, and the Board being desirous of providing for the sick poor of the union with the least possible delay the relief contemplated by the 6th and 7th Victoria, chap. 92, and doubts having arisen whether the enactment extends to the sick poor of the union without limitation, or whether the relief contemplated is to be confined by the provisions of the 1st and 2d Vict. c. 56, for the admission of paupers into the workhouse;

Ordered, That our clerk be directed to call the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners to this subject, with a view to obtain their reading of the law, and to request a reply at their earliest convenience.

(signed) *Rob. Munkitterich*, Clerk.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians to the Commissioners.

Gentlemen, Ardee, 14 September 1843.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this union to call your attention to the accompanying minutes on the subject of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and to request your reply at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Rob. Munkitterich*, Clerk to the Union.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 25 Sept. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Ardee Union on the 12th instant, in which the guardians propose to provide aid for poor persons afflicted with fever under the 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 92, and inquire whether this enactment extends to sick poor without limitation; and the Commissioners desire me to state, that they will sanction the hiring or otherwise providing a suitable building for the reception of fever patients. The Commissioners are of opinion that the guardians may, under section 16, 6th and 7th Vict. c. 92, receive into a building provided for the purpose all such poor persons afflicted with fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, as have not the means of providing suitable accommodation and medical assistance for themselves whilst ill; but the Commissioners do not think the guardians, under the provisions of the Act referred to, can provide for the accommodation of such as are capable of providing medical assistance for themselves.

The building provided for the purpose should be within a convenient distance of the workhouse, so that it may be superintended by the officers of the present establishment, with the assistance of a paid responsible nurse.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Ardee Union. (signed) *B. Banks*, For *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 17602.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 September 1843.

AN application having been made by Rose Loughran, on behalf of her sister, Bridget, suffering under fever in the house of Henry Coulan, a weaver, whose sister and a child, inmates of the same house, are also afflicted by fever, and the father of Rose, heretofore a lodger

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

a lodger in the same house, where he took fever within the month, and after removal to the dispensary, died;

Ordered, That the following committee, viz. Mr. Hatch, Mr. Boylan, and Mr. O'Reilly, be, and they are hereby appointed to provide, with the assistance and advice of the medical officer, the necessary relief for the above three persons, either in the house at present occupied by them, or by renting some other more suitable for one month.

Ordered, That the committee be further charged to inquire and report to this Board, at their next meeting, what accommodation, and at what expense, a suitable house may be provided for the relief of persons under fever, and other dangerous contagious disease.

Ordered, That our clerk notice the guardians that on next Board day, the report of the committee relative to a fever establishment, will be taken into consideration.

No. 18262.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 3 October 1843.

The committee appointed the last day for providing accommodation for fever cases having this day reported progress, and requested to continue their duties;

Ordered, That the committee, aided by the medical officer, be authorized to continue in the discharge of their duties for one month, and that they be requested to report their proceedings to the Board at their next monthly meeting, on the 31st instant.

Ordered, That the sum of 1*l.* be paid for the expenses of the removal of fixtures and other property in the new fever house by the clerk, out of petty cash.

Proposed by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr. Russell, That it is the opinion of this Board, that the relief directed by the 6th and 7th of Vict., c. 92, for the relief of poor persons affected with fever or other dangerous contagious disease, will be best and most economically provided for through the medium of local hospitals, distributed through the several electoral districts, with reference to the paupers of the population likely to stand in need of relief.—Negatived, three to four.

Amendment, proposed by Mr. Hatch, seconded by Mr. Russell, That the consideration of the motion proposed by Mr. O'Reilly be postponed until the next meeting of the Board.—Carried, four to three.

Ordered, That the clerk do notice the guardians, the purport of Mr. O'Reilly's motion to be taken into consideration at the monthly meeting of the Board on the 31st instant.

No. 20213.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 31 October 1843.

The report of the committee having been read, and the account of the expenditure up to the 28th instant having been produced;

Ordered, That the report and account be received and entered upon the minutes:—

"Your committee having applied their attention to the providing the necessary accommodation for the patients reported to the Board as labouring under fever, gladly availed themselves of the disposition manifested by the inhabitants of the two cabins in which the fever originated to abandon their dwellings at once, entered into arrangements to rent the premises for the union, until the 1st November, with liberty to continue in possession at the standing rent, until some more permanent arrangement could be made.

"Your committee found it necessary to have some small repairs made in both cabins, which constituted one block of building, situated on the high road, adjoining the poorhouse boundary-wall. For the very moderate expense incurred in the providing of the above accommodation, the best that at the moment could be obtained,

"Your committee begs leave to refer to the schedule annexed to this their report. The three patients found on the premises were, by the judicious treatment of your medical officer, happily restored to their friends before the end of the month; but their places have been unhappily filled up by nine additional patients, three males and six females, including two children; viz. five of one wretched family named Brown, labouring under low fever of the typhoid character; a man and wife, named O'Neill, in the worst stage of like fever, having one child, whom it was fortunately found safe to remove to the infirmary of the poorhouse, labouring under disease of the scalp; a woman named Barnes, with a single child, who was absolutely delirious when she presented herself for relief, her child has also been removed to the workhouse; lastly, a man named Carroll, sent in by Mr. Filgate, one of your guardians, who appears to have taken the fever from a girl who died in the house he was taken from. These nine patients are still in the infirmary; their number and destitution, no less than the dangerous character of their malady, all proclaim the necessity of renting the present premises until more adequate accommodation can be provided, the necessity for which your committee cannot too strongly press upon the attention of the Board.

(signed) *Wm. O'Reilly.* *Wm. Hatch.* *Geo. Boylan.*

"Your committee desire to add, that it has been necessary to employ Mr. Smith, the apothecary of the town, to compound and see administered the medicine, &c. directed by your medical officer.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ARDEE UNION.

"A regular nurse-tender has been employed since the 20th of October, whom we recommend to be paid at the rate of 8*d.* per day, with porter's allowance.

"The medical officer thinks it absolutely necessary to give this woman, while charged with the care of so many patients, an assistant; such an assistant can, we understand, be obtained for 6*d.* per day, with rations, a scale of remuneration we cannot avoid declaring to be the very lowest that can be offered for such service.

"Cost of Repairs, Expenses of Hospital, &c.

	£.	s.	d.
"Half year's rent due by tenants in possession, due 1st November - -	2	15	–
Goodwill and expenses of removing furniture - - - - - -	1	–	–
To agreement with Mason, for repairs, not fully complete - - -	3	5	–
Paid Rose Loughran, nurse-tender, up to the 20th October - - -	–	12	6
Due present nurse-tender for nine-days, until 28th, at 8*d.* - - -	–	6	–
Master's accounts, including nurse-tender's rations to ditto - - -	2	11	10¾
"Exclusive of Medicine, and Medical Attendance - - £.	10	10	4¾"

Proposed by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Mr Hughes, That it is the opinion of this Board, that the relief directed by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, may be most gratefully, beneficially (as well as economically) provided for the sick poor of the union, by renting or building small infirmaries in the several localities where the grouping of the population calls for local dispensary relief.—Negatived, 11 to 7.

Proposed by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Major Ruxton, That it is the opinion of this Board, that the medical officer of this Board cannot discharge his duty to the union without the assistance of a qualified apothecary.—Carried, 12 to 2.

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the 26th September, be continued in the discharge of their duties until the next monthly meeting of the Board, and that in case they cannot provide accommodation in the town, that they be at liberty to provide accommodation elsewhere, and that the following gentlemen be added to the committee, Mr. Bellew, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Shekleton, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Brenan.

No. 21865, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 November 1843.

THAT Mary Barnes and her child be admitted into the workhouse from the fever hospital.

Ordered, That the fever committee be continued in their office for another month, and that they be empowered to break open a door in the hospital from one room to the other, and that they be requested to report fully to the Board at the next monthly meeting, and that the nurse-tender be retained to take care of the house, &c.

No. 22236.

REPORT from Mr. *Gilbert*, Assistant Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Rostrevor, 5 December 1843.

I BEG to report to you that I inspected the two cottages taken by the guardians of this union and converted into a fever hospital. They are two poor cottages of the ordinary class, standing by the road, a short distance above the workhouse. The Commissioners are, I believe, fully aware that the guardians were at first induced to take them from the circumstance of finding some persons there suffering from fever who wished to be admitted to the workhouse; there were afterwards other persons admitted, and a nurse was appointed, who lives in the cottages, and also an apothecary, to assist the medical officer; some alterations were made to improve the ventilation, and the fortunate result of the guardians' arrangement was, that all the patients were cured. At the present moment there is no patient in them, but the nurse and apothecary are still retained. The guardians now propose to keep on these cottages till the month of May, to serve a similar purpose, should occasion arise; but they admit that they are insufficient for the purposes of fever patients, and the guardians contemplate soon taking some steps to provide a fever hospital, either by renting a separate building or erecting an additional ward to the house. The latter I think will be determined upon. In the meantime, they intend to open a door so as to allow of communication from one cottage to the other, so as to avoid exposing the nurse and medical officer to the risk and inconvenience of passing out in the rain from one to the other. It will be attended with little expense, and is certainly desirable. I am induced to think that under the circumstances the guardians have acted wisely in taking the cottages, and that it would be prudent to continue them till the spring of the year, as they propose, until their views as to providing permanent accommodation for these patients shall be matured.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *W. J. Gilbert.*

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 96, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 December 1843.

THAT Patrick and James Crobley be admitted into the workhouse from the fever hospital. The following report of the committee of the fever hospital was read:

"Your committee beg to remind this Board that at the date of their last report nine patients remained under treatment in the fever hospital, three having been previously discharged cured; since then, to this date, 11 were admitted, making a total of 20 patients; one died, 14 have been discharged cured, and five remain under treatment; of those discharged, three, previously inmates of the poorhouse, have again been received into the establishment; of the remaining extern patients, 12 were restored to their homes, and two were admitted into the poorhouse.

"Your committee, availing themselves of the power confided to them by your Board, have made the humble accommodation under their directions as comfortable and as serviceable as circumstances permitted, and are happy in being in a condition to report, that aided by the judicious and indefatigable attention of your medical officers, they are entitled to congratulate you and the union on having restored to health and to their families so many of the suffering poor of the union who must have otherwise become a charge upon the ratepayers, already sufficiently taxed.

"EXPENDITURE to the 23d December.

	£.	s.	d.
"Dietary of nurse-tenders	2	3	–½
Ditto - patients	6	10	5
Ditto - extra to ditto	1	9	–
Salary to nurse-tenders	2	15	6
£.	12	17	11½"

Moved by Major Ruxton, seconded by Mr. Milling, That the report be adopted, and that the committee be continued in their office until the next monthly meeting of the Board.

Ordered, That the fever hospital committee be empowered to obtain two hair mattresses, one gridiron, three small stools, shutters and bars to inside windows, and one enema syringe.

No. 2185.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 30 January 1844.

THAT the following report of the fever committee be received, and that they continue in the discharge of their duties for another month:

"Report of Fever Hospital Committee, from the 28th December 1843 to the 30th January 1844.

"Remaining at last report under treatment		5
Admitted since, to this date		3
		8
Discharged cured	6	
Remaining under treatment	2	
		8

(signed) *George Boylan. William Hatch. Patrick Russell.*

"Of the six cases discharged cured, two entered the house for a few days, and have since, with the other four, returned to their homes. We have every reason to be satisfied with the state of the house, and the attention paid by the officers and nurse to the patients."

Proposed by Mr. Hatch, seconded by Mr. Russell, That on the 13th February the Board will proceed to take into consideration the best mode of providing suitable permanent accommodation for fever patients, and that the clerk do notice the Board to that effect.

No. 3432, D.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 February 1844.

THAT Thomas Crilly, now convalescent, be removed from the fever hospital to the house, and that Anne Fitzpatrick and Matthew Fitzpatrick be also admitted from the fever hospital into the house.

The Board having taken into consideration the subject of erecting a fever hospital, as per minute on the 30th January, have come to the following resolution,

That

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ARDEE UNION.

That an advantageous site can be had within the boundary-wall on the premises.

That accommodation will be required for 40 patients, with convalescent and other wards.

That the clerk write to the Commissioners requesting they will forward any plans or estimates which they may have to the Board together with such suggestions as they may deem advisable to aid the Board in coming to a sound decision on the subject.

That medical gentlemen recommending persons to the fever hospital be requested to mention where the persons reside in their certificate, and also direct them to obtain a warden's ticket.

No. 3433, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sirs, Ardee, 14 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this union, to request you will forward them any plans or estimates which you may have, for the purpose of erecting a fever hospital for the accommodation of 40 patients, together with such suggestions as you may deem advisable.

* * * * * *

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Rob. Munkitterick.*

REPLY to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 Feb. 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and in compliance with your request to forward to you three plans for the erection of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the Ardee Union.

See Copies of Plans at the end of this Return.

The plans vary in size and in construction, but whichever the guardians may select can be extended or modified as the guardians may suggest. The Commissioners will readily afford every facility in their power to enable the guardians to carry out the object contemplated; and on the plans now sent being returned, with an indication of the one selected, they will cause the necessary working drawings to be prepared, on which tenders may be obtained; but if the guardians wish to advertise for obtaining plans and specifications themselves, the Commissioners will not object to their doing so. The probable cost of erecting the building is stated on each plan.

* * * * * *

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Ardee Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 4044.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 20 February 1844.

Ordered, THAT our clerk be directed to write to the Poor Law Commissioners to have their opinion whether expense of patients in the fever hospital is to be charged to the respective electoral divisions, or the union at large.

Dear Sir, Ardee, 19 February 1844.

I beg to state, that I am in the receipt of a letter from the clerk of the union, conveying to me, as physician and surgeon of the Ardee Dispensary, the following resolution of the Board for my guidance in directing the sick poor objects of dispensary relief labouring under fever or other contagious disorders within my district, how they should apply for the hospital required in their respective cases, and provided by the guardians of the Ardee Union:—

"That medical gentlemen recommending persons to the fever hospital be requested to mention where the person resides in their certificate, and also direct them to obtain a warden's ticket."

I beg, sir, that you will assure the Board that I shall willingly, with the recommendation conveyed in the resolution, so far as regards the adding to my certificate of their title to relief, the respective residences of the sick poor falling under my care; but I beg leave respectfully to suggest a doubt of the prudence of requiring in all cases (and if not in all, how can a distinction be made?) a warden's ticket; the warden can in no case be supposed to be a competent judge of the question of contagious disorder or not in the applicant, and that question is the sole one on which the title for fever hospital relief rests.

In many cases which you, sir, can easily imagine, and for illustration of which I beg to refer the gentlemen of the Board to several cases reported in the Times newspaper, within the last two months, showing the lamentable effects arising from obliging the sick poor to obtain the relieving officer's certificate, before they could obtain at the union workhouse the relief directed by the medical attendant (particularly that reported under the head of the Bromley Union

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Union inquest), I should hesitate to impose any additional trouble or delay upon the removal of a person labouring under contagious disorder. The poor of this country, so far as my experience extends, are very unwilling, save in the last extremity of want and fear, to accept as a boon the removal of their relations to a public fever hospital, in the distant locality; it is all but impossible to persuade them to accept the necessary relief in time, and you will probably be surprised to hear, that within the last month, the friends of the patients labouring under fever, and living in the very street with the hospital, refused to remove them from their own crowded ill-ventilated houses to the hospital within their view.

Trusting to your accustomed kindness to assure the Board of my unaffected anxiety to carry out the objects of their benevolent solicitude, in the most effectual way that can be pointed out, without any regard to my own labour,

I have, &c.
(signed) *Richard Montgomery.*

To Thomas Lee Norman, Esq.

Ordered, That the clerk be directed to lay before the Board on Tuesday the 5th March, a return of the number of fever patients admitted in the hospital, and by what recommendation; also, copies of any reports from the medical practitioners, within the union, of the state of fever within their respective districts, since the passing of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

Mr. Gilbert, the Assistant Commissioner, stated to the master, that he was bound to receive a pauper or fever patient, even without a warden's ticket, when the case was an urgent one.

(signed) *Robert Munkitterick,* Clerk.

No. 4042/44.

EXTRACT from Letter from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sirs,

Ardee, 22 February 1844.

I AM directed to write to you to have your opinion whether the expense of patients in the fever hospital is to be charged to the respective divisions, or to the union at large.

* * * * * * * *

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Munkitterick.*

The Poor Law Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS' Reply.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
23 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to transmit the following reply to your inquiries.

Whether the expense of patients in the fever hospital is to be charged to the respective divisions, or to the union at large?—	They are to be charged to the divisions, or to the union at large to which the paupers in the hospital are respectively chargeable, according to the 12th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act.

* * * * * * * *

I am &c.
(signed) *A. Moore,* Chief Clerk.

To Mr. R. Munkitterick, Ardee.

No. 7726.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 March 1844.

Ordered, THAT the master keep a book of requirements for the fever hospital, to be exhibited to the fever committee for their signature and approval.

That the fever committee be empowered to retake the present fever hospital for six months.

(signed) *Robert Munkitterick,* Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Armagh Union.

ARMAGH UNION.

No. 5800, D/44.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 12 March 1844.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Paton, That a special general meeting be held on the 9th of April next, to consider the propriety of providing for fever patients under the provisions of the Amendment Act.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

Note.—The guardians have resolved to add fever wards to the workhouse, and plans have been furnished to them by the Commissioners.

Athlone Union.

ATHLONE UNION.

No. 20423, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 4 November 1843.

Notice of Motion.

Take notice that, on this day fortnight, I will move that the Board take into consideration the necessity of erecting a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse, according to the provisions of the amended Act.

(signed) *P. J. Fallon.*

No. 21302, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 18 November 1843.

Mr. Fallon's notice of motion for the erection of a fever hospital was deferred to a future period, in consequence of the thin attendance of the Board.

Ballinrobe Union.

BALLINROBE UNION.

No. 17340, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 21 September 1843.

Robert Bowen, esq., notice of motion for this day fortnight, that we do forthwith avail ourselves of the means provided by the 16th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, for providing hospitals for the reception of fever patients, and that we do appropriate a certain portion of the house for that purpose.

Letter from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 26 September 1843.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union on the 21st instant, and with reference to a notice of motion proposing to appropriate a certain portion of the workhouse for the reception of poor persons afflicted with fever, the Commissioners have directed me to state that the responsibility of sanctioning any alterations in workhouses for the purpose of receiving persons afflicted with fever, having been imposed upon them by the 16th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, they have given the matter the consideration due to its importance, and have been advised that it would be inconsistent with the safety of the other inmates of the workhouse to permit any part of the present building to be appropriated for the reception of fever patients.

A due regard for the health of the inmates of the workhouse generally must therefore prevent the Commissioners from giving their sanction to the alteration proposed to be made in the workhouse of the Ballinrobe Union. I am however, at the same time, to state that the Commissioners will be glad to lend every assistance in their power in providing other accommodation for the purpose required near the workhouse, in such manner as the guardians may deem most advisable.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BALLYMENA UNION.

No. 16447, D/43.

LETTER from the Rev. *H. J. Dobbin.*

Gentlemen, Ballymena, 7 September 1843.

A NUMBER of the inhabitants of Ballymena, impressed with the necessity of providing medical attendance and relief for the poor who might be visited with typhus fever, raised by subscription, some time ago, the sum of 300 *l.*, with the view of erecting, with the aid of the grand jury of the county of Antrim, a fever hospital.

The amended Poor Law, which passed the Legislature last session, has, however, appeared to some of the subscribers to do away with the necessity of their voluntary efforts to erect and support such an institution; and, at a public meeting of the subscribers held here yesterday, it was resolved that the Poor Law Commissioners should be respectfully asked their view of the matter.

I have been instructed therefore to inquire,

1st. Whether sections 15 and 16 of the amended Act empower the guardians to provide accommodation and medical attendance for poor persons afflicted with fever, other than those who are inmates of the workhouse?

2d. If they are thus empowered, are the guardians to understand by "poor persons," only those who would be admitted as inmates into the workhouse, or a rather higher class, such as servants and tradespeople, who would be willing to go into a fever hospital, but not likely to become inmates of a poorhouse?

3d. Supposing the law contemplates the relief of this latter class, would it require a regular meeting of the guardians before a person labouring under fever could be admitted?

Will you be good enough to inform me on these points, for the satisfaction of the subscribers.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Jackson Dobbin,*
Secretary of the Fever Hospital Committee.

LETTERS from the Commissioners in reply.

I.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 9 September 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the medical attendance and relief to be provided under the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, for the poor; and I am to state that the Commissioners will again communicate with you on the subject.

To the Rev. H. J. Dobbin,
Ballymena.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,* Chief Clerk.

II.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 3 October 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them your letter of the 7th ultimo, containing inquiries with reference to the mode of affording medical relief to such poor persons as are afflicted with fever in the Ballymena Union, under the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, and the Commissioners desire me to state in reply thereto:—

1st. That sections 15 and 16 of the Amendment Act empower the Board of Guardians to provide accommodation and medical attendance for poor persons afflicted with fever, other than those who are inmates of the workhouse.

2d. It will not be competent for the guardians to afford medical relief to those who are able to pay, or otherwise provide themselves with the necessary attendance and accommodation.

3d. In cases of persons labouring under fever, the Commissioners consider that it would not be necessary to wait for a meeting of the Board of Guardians, as such cases might require urgent and immediate attention; and therefore they might be admitted at once, on application being made, and especially if accompanied by medical certificate as to disease, and inability otherwise to provide, or be provided for.

To the Rev. H. J. Dobbin,
Ballymena.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,* Chief Clerk.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 3 October 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have directed me to forward herewith, for the information and guidance of the Board of Guardians of the Ballymena Union, the accompanying copy of a letter which they have received from the Rev. H. J. Dobbin, relative to the mode of

 providing

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BALLYMENA. UNION.

See page 233.

providing medical relief to poor persons afflicted with fever, under the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, and also a copy of the Commissioners' reply thereto.

The Commissioners having had occasion to address a letter on the subject to the Board of Guardians of the Granard Union, they have instructed me to send a copy of it herewith, which will put the guardians more fully in possession of the Commissioners' views as to the mode of bringing into operation that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act which relates to fever hospitals.

The Commissioners think that if a building be erected on the workhouse site, its management would be far more economical than in any other manner; and they have directed a plan of a building, of a plain construction, to be prepared, which can be erected where necessary, at a very moderate cost; and a copy of it will be forwarded to the guardians, should they deem a separate building necessary.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians,
Ballymena Union.

No. 21927, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Ballymena Union, Ballymena, 1 December 1843.

I AM directed by the guardians of the above union to request your attention to the annexed resolution, passed at a meeting of the Board held here yesterday.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. M'Peake*, Clerk of the Union.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing Letter.

Ballymena Union, Ballymena, 30 November 1843.

COPY Resolution passed at a Meeting held here to-day.

Resolved, THAT the Board of Guardians regret very much to learn from Mr. Senior that the Commissioners are averse to any part of the workhouse being allocated for a fever hospital, and request that they will reconsider the propriety of this Board allocating a portion of their poorhouse, as there is sufficient room in it for that purpose, after accommodating all paupers who are likely to apply for admission; and it would be a saving of from 400 *l.* to 500 *l.* to the union, a thing much to be desired in justice to the rate-payers; and further, as it is the opinion of the Board's medical attendant, that there would be no more danger of contagion in appropriating same to the reception of fever patients than if a new building were erected in the yard for such purpose.

LETTER in reply to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 6 December 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, enclosing a resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Ballymena Union, relative to the proposed appropriation of a portion of the workhouse for the purpose of a fever hospital.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance; those rules are founded on extensive inquiry and long experience; and they feel therefore that if, as in the present case, a difference of opinion should arise between themselves and the Board of Guardians on any subject, they are fully warranted in exercising the powers entrusted to them by the Legislature, and declining to sanction the arrangements proposed by the guardians.

The Commissioners are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant the Commissioners in the course they have decided on pursuing, and they have therefore determined as a general rule to withhold their sanction from any arrangement by which the existing workhouse accommodation is to be appropriated as a fever hospital, and accordingly they must decline to sanction such an arrangement in the case of the Ballymena Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

The Clerk to the Guardians,
Ballymena Union, Ballymena.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BALLYMENA UNION.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 December 1843.

No. 22842.

THE following letters from the Poor Law Commissioners and others were read by the clerk, and directions given to answer them respectively, to the following effect (or orders made on them respectively, as follows):

1843: Dec. 6.

Poor Law Commissioners refusing to sanction the appropriation of a portion of the workhouse for the purpose of a fever hospital, and with reference to this letter, it was resolved, That a special meeting be called for the 4th day of January next, for the purpose of considering the propriety of providing accommodation for poor persons affected with fevers or other contagious diseases, and that our clerk be directed to give notice of same to the guardians by circular.

* * * * * * * * * *

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 4 January 1844.

No. 415, D/44.

THE subject of the fever hospital was here considered, when it was proposed by Mr. White, and seconded by Mr. Raphael, That it is not at present expedient to add to the expense of the union by building or renting a house for the purpose of a fever hospital. It was proposed by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Dunseath, as an amendment, That a fever hospital be built, or a house rented for that purpose, the cost of which to be charged on the rates of the union. A division was taken, when there appeared for the amendment 5 votes, and for the motion 15 votes, leaving a majority of 10 in favour of the motion, which was accordingly carried.

BALLYMONEY UNION.

BALLYMONEY UNION.

No. 1810, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 22 January 1844.

DR. THOMSON reported that Mary Deolet had incipient symptoms of fever since Thursday last.

Resolved, That a place in the idiot ward be fitted up for Mary Deolet, and that the house committee provide a house suitable for a fever hospital, and report to the Board on this day week, in case that any more cases of fever appear in the workhouse.

No. 2090, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes 29 January 1844.

DR. THOMSON reported that Mary Deolet's case of fever was approaching to a crisis, which, if nothing unforeseen happens, he expects will be favourable.

Resolved, That the nurse employed to attend the fever patients get 10*s.* 6*d.* per week, and officers' rations.

EXTRACT from Commissioners' Letter in reference to foregoing, dated 7 February 1844.

IN regard to the employment of a nurse to attend the fever patients, I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners how many fever patients are now in the house, and whether any have been admitted while labouring under fever.

No. 4046.

LETTER from the Chairman of the Board of Guardians.

Sir, Lissanoure Castle, Ballymoney, 21 February 1844.

THE following case of destitution has been brought under my notice this day within the electoral division of Ballycregat, Union of Ballymoney, and as I shall be absent at Dundalk assizes next Board day, I should wish some instructions to be given to the Board how to act, to prevent any fatality.

A girl named M'Kierney (whose father has no means of subsistence but the kindness of a former master) was hired as servant last May, near Coleraine; she took fever some weeks since, when she returned to her father's house; he has no means of attending to her; she is now without almost a bundle of straw under her, in an outhouse, and no one willing to attend her, for fear of infection. I directed the guardians of the division this day to go to the extent of 10*s.* for food and attendance until Monday, and then to bring her

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BALLYMONEY UNION.

case before the Board. It appears one of those cases (not provided for in the Act) requiring out-door aid, in order to prevent the risk of infection by bringing her within the walls of the poorhouse.

I beg to call the particular attention of the resident Assistant Commissioners to this case, in order that a communication may be made to the Board by Monday, for their guidance.

I remain, &c.

To Arthur Moore, Chief Clerk. (signed) *Geo. Macartney,*
Chairman, Ballymoney Union.

No. 4046.

LETTER of the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 24 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, detailing the case of a girl named M'Kierney, who is in fever and in a state of destitution, and requesting that instructions may be given to the Board of Guardians on the subject, the case appearing to be one not provided for by the Irish Poor Relief Acts, and requiring out-door aid, in order to prevent the risk of infection, which would be incurred by admitting her into the workhouse.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that out-door relief cannot, under any circumstances, be legally administered by the Board of Guardians, inasmuch as it falls within the prohibition contained in the 52d section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and must therefore, if given, be disallowed by the auditor; and of course the Commissioners presume that the 10*s.* referred to in your letter is not intended to be charged to the poor-rate.

The Commissioners are of opinion, however, that the case may fairly be brought within the provisions of the 15th section of the Amendment Act of last session, by admitting the girl on the registry of the workhouse, and then, in pursuance of the authority contained in the section referred to, causing her removal to the nearest fever hospital. In this way the guardians can legally pay out of the rates the cost of her removal to a fever hospital, and of her maintenance while there.

The Commissioners have observed, on recent minutes of the Board of Guardians, that one of the inmates of the workhouse was attacked with fever, and that temporary arrangements were made for her accommodation in the female lunatic ward, and a nurse engaged to attend to the case; at the same time a committee was appointed to take into consideration the providing of a fever hospital.

The Commissioners would be glad to learn what further has been done in these matters.

A copy of your letter, and of this reply, has been forwarded to the Board of Guardians, for their information and guidance, in the event of your not being able to attend the meeting on Monday.

I have, &c.

G. Macartney, Esq.
Chairman of the Ballymoney Union,
Lissanoure Castle, Ballymoney.

(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians, enclosing Copies of the two foregoing Letters.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 24 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you, for the information and guidance of the Board of Guardians of the Ballymoney Union, the enclosed copy of a communication which they have received from the chairman of the Board, together with a copy of a letter addressed to him in reply.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Ballymoney Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

No. 5137.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 4 March 1844.

THE master reported that Andrew Craig, a person that had been ill of fever, was sent by a warden to the workhouse; that the pauper admitted he was from the Ballycastle Union, and that he had refused to admit him; that Anne Brown was brought on a cart by James Coyle, one of three rate-payers who had certified as to her being a fit person for relief; that he refused to admit her on the document, but from Coyle's statement of her destitution, he admitted her, as he considered it an urgent case of necessity. After she had been brought into the probationary ward, she stated she was just recovering from fever; he then called on Dr. Thomson, who confirmed her statement. He immediately went in search of Coyle, and found that he had made his escape from town; he then hired a car, and took the said Anne Brown with him on it, and left her in Coyle's house, at Drumcrottagh, in the Durwick division.

Resolved,

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Resolved, That the master's decision on the two foregoing cases be approved of.

The guardians admitted the woman (Brown) who had been presented to the master of the workhouse last week, ill of fever, as a pauper.

Resolved, That the Commissioners be requested to allow her to be supported where she is now lying ill of fever, at James Coyle's, in Drumcrottagh, as there is no fever hospital nearer than Belfast; and that the allowance to Coyle, weekly, be 10*s*.

No. 5137, D/44.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the above Resolution.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 7 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Ballymoney Union, on the 4th instant, containing a resolution requesting the Commissioners to allow a woman named Brown to be supported out of the union funds, where she is now lying ill of fever, there being no fever hospital nearer than Belfast.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that the proposition is directly contrary to law, and that the Commissioners have no power to sanction that which is in itself illegal. No payment can be made from the rates in respect of the woman referred to, unless she be in a public fever hospital, or a fever ward upon the workhouse site.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Ballymoney Union.

No. 5734.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 March 1844.

LETTER dated 7th instant, stating that it is directly contrary to the law (and the Commissioners have no power to sanction that which is in itself illegal) to pay for the support of Anne Brown, unless she be in a public fever hospital, or a fever ward upon the workhouse site.

The guardians beg to state, that they acted under the impression that it was in the power of the Commissioners to allow a house to be rented, and paupers to be supported during the time of their illness and convalescence, either of fever or any other contagious disease; and that the case of Anne Brown was so urgent, that she must either have been admitted into the workhouse, or be allowed to die for want of proper attendance; and they are getting her house, food, and attendance under their present arrangement cheaper than the wages of a nurse to attend her in the workhouse, and subject the paupers to the danger of contagion.

No. 5734, D/44.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Ballymoney Union on the 11th instant, containing a resolution relative to the case of Anne Brown, who is suffering from fever, and for whose lodging, food, and attendance the guardians propose paying a weekly sum to the person to whose house she has been removed.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners again to state that such payment would be distinctly illegal: the law does not contemplate weekly payments to or on account of persons in fever as proposed, and the guardians have consequently no authority to make such payment, nor have the Commissioners any power to sanction it, or the auditor to allow it if made.

The provision of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, to which the guardians have referred, only enables the Commissioners to sanction the permanent hiring or renting of a house for the express purpose of the reception and medical treatment of persons suffering from fever, but does not, in any way, sanction such a course as that which the guardians desire to adopt in this case.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Ballymoney Union.

No. 6315.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 18 March 1844.

THE guardians, on Anne Brown's case being brought forward, entered into a subscription, joined by Mr. Senior, to defray the expense that had been already incurred for her lodging, attendance, and food, for the past two weeks and for the present one.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BALROTHERY UNION.

BALROTHER YUNION.

No. 19132.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 16 October 1843.

Proposed by Mr. Hussey, seconded by the Honourable St. John Butler:

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of Mr. Byrne, Mr. Magrane, Mr. Christie, and Dr. Adrien, be appointed to ascertain upon what terms a proper spring-cart could be procured for the use of the union, to convey fever patients to the fever hospitals in Dublin, under the clauses in the new Act, and to report to the Board as to the expense and description of such spring-cart at its next meeting.

Ordered, That the expense of transmitting Mary Rooney, a fever patient in the house, to a Dublin hospital, be charged to the union at large.

No. 19132, D/1843.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 21 October 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Balrothery Union on the 16th instant, containing a resolution to appoint a committee to inquire as to the expense of obtaining a proper cart for the conveyance of persons labouring under fever from the workhouse to the fever hospital in Dublin.

In reference to this resolution, the Commissioners have directed me to state that they would recommend the Board of Guardians to use great caution in removing fever patients so great a distance in the manner proposed, and they suggest that the written certificate of the medical officer as to the propriety of that course, in every individual case, should be given at the latest possible period previous to the removal of the patient.

As regards the instruction to charge the expense of transmitting a fever patient named Mary Rooney to the fever hospital in Dublin to the union at large, I am to state that the cost of removing a pauper from the workhouse to a fever hospital should be debited to the electoral division in which he or she is stated in the register to have been resident previously to admission to the workhouse.

See page 2. Your attention is requested to the course pointed out in the circular letter of the Commissioners, dated the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Walmisley*, First Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Balrothery Union.

No. 20066.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 30 October 1843.

THE Board having learned that there are now two cases of very bad fever in the hospital, and that there may be a danger of further increase;

Ordered, That in the event of its appearing expedient to the doctor, he be authorized to have the present patients that are not affected with any contagious disease removed into the body of the house, and that he appropriate the hospital altogether to fever cases.

Mr. Magrane gives notice that on this day week he will move the following resolution:

"That this Board highly approve of the clause in the Amendment Poor Law Act of last session, empowering them to provide hospital relief for fever patients, and they pledge themselves to provide such relief when the urgency of the case may require, either by establishing a central hospital, or fitting up a temporary one in the locality in which fever prevails." For Monday (November 6) next.

Mr. Hussey gives notice that on this day week he will move the following resolution

"That the master be directed in no case to receive a pauper labouring under fever until accommodation for such patients be provided for, and in any suspicious case of illness in a pauper presenting himself for admission that he will not be suffered to enter the house without a medical certificate, in addition to the warden's certificate, that the pauper does not labour under fever."

No. 20696.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 6 November 1843.

MR. HUSSEY's notice of motion taken up by Dr. O'Grady, and proposed by him and seconded by Mr. Butler, being put from the chair, motion lost.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 22242.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 4 December 1843.

MR. MAGRANE'S motion of the 28th October last moved by him, and seconded by Mr. Tolan.

Amendment moved by Dr. O'Grady, and seconded by Mr. Byrne, and carried; viz.

"Resolved, That it is the duty of this Board to provide, without loss of time, accommodation for such fever patients as may be afflicted with fever in this union, pursuant to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and that this Board do now proceed to establish an hospital or hospitals accordingly."

Moved by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Mathews:

"Resolved, That a central hospital for the reception of fever and other contagious disease in connexion with the workhouse, is the best suited at present to the wants of this union."

For the Resolution.	Against the Resolution.
Messrs. Lynch.	Mr. H. H. Woods.
Magrane.	Dr. O'Grady.
Christie.	Dr. Thornhill.
Rooney.	Mr. E. F. Corbally.
Butler.	Mr. P. J. Dodd.
Mathews.	
Tolan.	
Hynes.	
Taylor.	

For - - - - - - - - - - -	9
Against - - - - - - - - - -	5
Majority - - - - -	4

Moved by Mr. Magrane, seconded by Mr. Tolan:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed for the purpose of reporting the best means of carrying the above resolution into effect, and that it consists of the following gentlemen: Dr. O'Grady, Dr. Thornhill, Messrs. Butler, Mathews, Hynes, Magrane, Lynch, and Hussey, to meet this day week, at 10 o'clock."

No. 2019, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 29 January 1844.

Resolved, That medical attendants in all fever and infectious cases to remove all patients labouring under such to any of the lunatic wards which may be vacant at the time, as a temporary provision until more appropriate accommodation be provided.

Resolved, That the Commissioners be requested to furnish the Board of Guardians with such plans of a fever hospital, in addition to the present workhouse, as they may recommend.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 10 February 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Balrothery Union on the 29th ult., containing a resolution requesting the Commissioners to furnish the Board with plans of a fever hospital to be built in addition to the present workhouse, and in accordance with the guardians' request, the Commissioners have directed me to forward to you, to be laid before the Board, the accompanying plans, which have been prepared by the Commissioners' architect.

It will be necessary, under the provisions of the Acts for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland, that the contract for erecting the fever ward should be made with the Commissioners. The works can be done, however, under the immediate control and superintendence of the Board of Guardians; and the Commissioners would be glad to be put in possession of their views upon this subject, as well as with regard to the site for the ward.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

I am, &c.

(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Balrothery Union,
Lusk, Swords.

No. 3438.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 February 1844.

READ letter from Poor Law Commissioners with regard to building a fever hospital, accompanied with three plans for same. No estimate. Referred to the committee appointed to carry into effect the resolution of this Board as to the erecting a central fever hospital.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BANBRIDGE UNION.

BANBRIDGE UNION.

No. 22583, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 December 1843.

MR. JOHN FEGAN gives notice that he will on this day three weeks move, that a portion of the Banbridge Union Workhouse be appropriated for the reception and medical treatment of poor persons affected with fever or other dangerous contagious diseases, or some other house be rented for that purpose in another portion of the union, subject to such regulations as the Poor Law Commissioners shall direct.

No. 22583, D/1843.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing Notice of Motion.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 December 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Banbridge Union on the 11th instant, containing a notice of motion relative to the proposed appropriation of a portion of the workhouse of the Banbridge Union for the purpose of a fever hospital, or to the renting of a house in some other part of the union for that purpose.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so, consistently with safety, and the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance.

The Commissioners, however, are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against the workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital.

The Commissioners, however, are quite alive to the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions, in which, as at Banbridge, no fever accommodation is at present available.

With this view, the Commissioners have in other unions similarly circumstanced sanctioned the erection of an out-ward upon the workhouse site, at such distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious disease. If the guardians consider it desirable to erect an out-ward for this purpose, under sections 35 and 36 of the Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with the guardians in carrying out their wishes in the manner in which the Board of Guardians may consider most for their own interests.

The Commissioners could furnish three sets of plans, which have been supplied to and adopted by other Boards, and if one of them were selected, the Commissioners would furnish the necessary specifications and working drawings, free of cost, and the guardians could then advertise for tenders for the execution of the work, under their own control and supervision; and would probably borrow the money, to be paid off by three or five yearly instalments.

It is obvious that, under this arrangement, the present staff of officers (with some addition to the salary of the medical attendant) would be sufficient for the management and supervision of the department, with the addition of a good responsible paid nurse. The account of provisions supplied to the fever patients would all pass through the regular workhouse books; and although under this arrangement parts of families might be admitted when in fever, and the strict rules applicable to the admission of inmates to other parts of the workhouse might be dispensed with as regards this class of patients, no inconvenience would practically arise therefrom, inasmuch as the fever hospital would be a distinct building, apart from that to which the Commissioners feel it necessary for the public interest to enforce the strict rules laid down for the guidance of all Boards of Guardians regarding admission for general relief.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Banbridge Union.

No. 110, D/44.

RESOLUTION of Guardians, 1 January 1844.

Resolved, That while the Medical Charities Bill is pending, and a great portion of the union workhouse at present unoccupied, that with every respect to the Commissioners' letter, the guardians are of opinion that a portion of the workhouse can with great safety be appropriated for the reception and medical treatment of fever patients, with a small additional expense to the probationary ward, in the erection of an outside staircase, and some other alterations necessary to prevent the spread of disease.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 110, D/1844.

Letter from the Commissioners in reference to the above Resolution.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 6 January 1844.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Banbridge Union on the 1st. instant.

* * * * * * * * * *

With reference to the resolution contained in the above minutes on the subject of the appropriation of a part of the workhouse as a fever hospital, I am to state, that with every wish to meet the views of the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners feel that in this instance they cannot, consistently with their duty, do so; for although the Board of Guardians do not anticipate any danger of infection, the Commissioners are advised to the contrary, and they do not think that they ought to give their sanction to the arrangement proposed, while there is even a possibility of danger to the inmates of the workhouse arising from it, more especially as the Legislature has provided other means of obtaining the object which the guardians have in view, either by the erection of an outward, or the hiring of a separate building.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Banbridge Union.

BELFAST UNION.

No. 18638, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 10 October 1843.

A letter was read from Mr. Lamant, of the fever hospital, informing the Board that a deputation from the hospital committee would wait on the Board.

A deputation from the committee of the fever hospital waited on the Board of Guardians this day, respecting the great increase of fever in Belfast, and the want of accommodation in the fever hospital for such cases.

Resolved, That the Board of Guardians do not think it advisable to allocate any part of the workhouse for the admission of fever patients; the mode of providing for fever cases, through the instrumentality of fever hospitals, has on former occasions been found adequate. The Board hope the present emergency may not prove so urgent as to require any interference on their part.

No. 10692, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 24 October 1843.

The reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon, as follows:—

The doctor reports having sent five children, the Andersons, to the fever hospital, being affected with fever.

Ordered, That a letter be written to the hospital committee, requesting them to keep an account of the expense in this case, so that it may be charged on the Belfast electoral division.

No. 20693, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 7 November 1843.

Read letter from the committee of the fever hospital, respecting the Board's paying for the Andersons sent to hospital in fever, and stating that the sum of 5*s*. each week will be charged for each; and further, that they cannot receive any more such cases for want of accommodation, there being 100 more in the hospital than the physicians consider can be safely admitted.

No. 26720[a], D/43.

Letter from the Rev. *Thomas Walker*, Vicar of Belfast, to Mr. *Gulson*.

Sir, Belfast, 8 November 1843.

I have been directed by the committee of the fever hospital (as chairman of their last meeting) to place myself in communication with you, in order to lay before you a statement of the very alarming prevalence of fever amongst the poor in this town, and to obtain information as to the means to be provided for their relief, this hospital being now insufficient.

There is in this establishment suitable accommodation for about 200 fever patients, including

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

including that afforded by a shed built within the last week, to meet the emergency of the case, and which contains 60 beds.

The number in hospital, at this date, is 330, and the applications for admission are becoming more numerous every day. A very painful alternative, therefore, presses upon the committee, either by admitting persons for whom there is no proper accommodation, to endanger the lives of those already in the hospital, or by refusing admission to paupers in fever, to send them back to their wretched abodes to perish.

It is the wish of the committee to be informed whether any, and what provision has been made by the Poor Law Amendment Act, for the relief and medical care of the poor, when in fever, and what power is vested in the guardians of the union for this purpose?

At present the guardians of this union refuse admission into the workhouse to paupers when in fever; and if any of the inmates exhibit symptoms of fever, they are, on order of their medical attendant, immediately transmitted to this hospital (see enclosed copy of letter from the clerk of the Board of Guardians).

From what is stated above, it is plain that this committee, however anxious to relieve the Board of Guardians, cannot admit patients, even with the promise of repayment of the expenses of their support, when there is no room for them in the hospital; nor can they, with the limited means at their disposal, extend their accommodation further, with the fact staring them in the face that next month their funds in hand will be exhausted, while no income can be reckoned on before the spring of next year.

Under these circumstances, the committee desire particularly to press upon your attention this question, whether, as the guardians object (and, perhaps, properly, having a regard to the health of the other inmates of the workhouse) to admit paupers in fever, it may not be in their power, under the terms of the Act specified, to come forward to the assistance of this committee, by supplying them with accommodation, as well as with funds, for the reception and relief of fever patients who belong to any of the electoral divisions of the union, and come under the description of persons to be supported in the workhouse?

The committee are most anxious to co-operate with the guardians of the union; but they feel convinced, that unless some means are speedily adopted beyond those in their power, for the effectual relief of the poor when in fever, the most fearful consequences will ensue.

I am directed by the committee to state, that they deem the matter communicated above to be of such importance as to require immediate consideration, and beg the favour of an early reply.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Walker*, Vicar of Belfast.

As the committee meets on Saturday, an answer before then, if possible, would be desirable.

To Edward Gulson, Esq. Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing Letter.

Sir, Belfast Union Workhouse, 30 October 1843.

THERE were five children applied for admission to the workhouse on last Tuesday, and who had received an order from the Board for their admission, but on the medical attendant examining them, he discharged them; and on his order they were sent to the fever hospital, being affected with fever.

I am directed to request that a separate account may be kept for them against the union, in order that the hospital charge may be paid, should it be considered that they are of that class of cases which the Poor Law Relief Act Amendment authorizes payment to be made for.

By order of the Board,

To A. E. Lamont, Esq. House Surgeon, &c.

(signed) *William Boyce*, Union Clerk.

LETTER of the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 10 Nov. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, requesting information as to the means to be provided for affording relief to the poor in Belfast, who are afflicted with fever; and in reference thereto, I am to state, that the guardians have the power, with the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners, of providing fever accommodation upon the workhouse site, if they think right so to do. The fever wards thus provided to be for the reception and accommodation of all poor persons afflicted with fever or other dangerous contagious disease, who may be resident in the Belfast Union, and who are otherwise unable to provide the necessary accommodation and medical attendance during their illness.

If such accommodation be provided, the guardians can then legally receive any poor persons labouring under fever, without those restrictions as to the admission of parts of families,

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

families, which the Commissioners feel it necessary to enforce, as regards the admission of inmates of the workhouse.

The guardians have no power to assist the committee, as suggested, by supplying them with accommodation and with funds, for the reception and relief of fever patients from the different electoral divisions of the union, nor could the Commissioners sanction such a proceeding; but as the guardians have the power, as abovementioned, of providing suitable fever wards apart from the workhouse, but on the workhouse site, at such a distance from the workhouse as a due regard for the health of other inmates may render necessary, the Commissioners consider that the guardians have it in their power to provide such fever accommodation as will meet the necessities of the union.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

The Rev. Thomas Walker,
Vicar of Belfast.

No. 20720[a], D/43.

Letter to the Board of Guardians, enclosing Copies of the two foregoing Letters.

Sir,
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 13 Nov. 1843.

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you, for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union, the enclosed copy of a communication which they have received from the Rev. T. Walker, relative to the providing of fever accommodation in the Belfast Union, together with a copy of their reply.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Belfast Union.

No. 21022, D/43.

Letter from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir,
Workhouse, 14 November 1843.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians of Belfast Union, herewith to enclose copy of resolutions of this Board on this day, the 14th instant, in reference to the providing accommodation required to meet the exigency from the great increase of fever in Belfast at present, and to request the Commmissioners' sanction to the proposed means of providing same, as set forth in said accompanying resolutions, and respectfully to beg the Commissioners' early reply.

By order of the Board,
(signed) *William Boyce*, Union Clerk.

To Arthur Moore, Esq.
Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission Office.

No. 21022, D/43.

Enclosure in foregoing Letter, 14 November 1843.

Copy of Resolutions.

That from the alarming increase of fever in Belfast, and the state of the funds of the hospital as represented in the letter of the committee to the Commissioners of Poor Laws, read this day, it has become expedient to make use of the powers vested in this Board by the Act of last sessions for providing accommodation for cases of fever at the expense of the union.

That the following guardians, John Clarke (convenor), Richard B. Blakeston Houston, John Cunningham, William M'Gee, John F. Ferguson, Patrick Macauly, and Alexander Henry Haliday, be a committee to confer with the committee of the fever hospital at 12 o'clock to-morrow at the fever hospital, to confer as to the extent of accommodation required to meet the exigency, and with authority, as soon as the consent of the Commissioners is obtained, to direct the erection of a temporary building on the workhouse grounds, capable of affording the necessary accommodation, or to hire a building to be converted into an hospital, if such can be obtained on more reasonable terms and in an eligible situation.

That the above resolutions be sent off by this day's post to the Commissioners, requesting their sanction, and an immediate reply.

(signed) *William Boyce*, Union Clerk.

No. 21022, D/43.

Letter from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir,
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 15 Nov. 1843.

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing resolutions passed by the Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union on that day, relative to the providing of fever accommodation in connexion with the workhouse; and in reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they

will

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

will sanction the suggested arrangement if, when the committee report, the proposed plan appears to be in accordance with the law, and for the interests of the union.

The Commissioners think that in the end permanent accommodation will be more economical than temporary accommodation, considering the general prevalence of fever in Belfast and its vicinity.

Whether the accommodation is permanent or temporary, it must be considered as a part of the workhouse, and be under the control and management of the Board of Guardians in the same way as the workhouse itself. All persons admitted must be registered in the union register, and all the provisions, medicines, &c. must be supplied from the workhouse stores, and pass through the provision accounts and other accounts, in the same manner as if the supplies were consumed in any other part of the workhouse, as stated in the Commissioners' circular of the 25th September last. In addition to this, a separate account should be kept, so as to show the separate registry, and the separate expense of persons thus relieved when in fever.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Belfast Union.

No. 21045, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 November 1843.

THAT the committee appointed to meet and confer with the fever hospital committee, respecting the means of providing accommodation for persons affected with fever, be noticed of their appointment, and to meet at 12 o'clock to-morrow at the fever hospital.

No. 21100, D/43.

MINUTES of Guardians' Meeting, 16 November 1843.

SPECIAL meeting, Board of Guardians, 16th November 1843.—Convened by order of John Cunningham, John F. Ferguson, and William M'Gee, Esqrs., guardians of the poor of the Belfast Union, to receive the report of the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Belfast fever hospital, for the purpose of providing accommodation for fever patients, owing to the great increase of fever in Belfast and neighbourhood.

Present:—John Cunningham, Esq. chairman, Alexander Henry Haliday, William M'Gee, William Stevenson, Edward H. Clarke, and John F. Ferguson, Esqrs.

The following reports from medical men were read; viz.

Sir, Belfast, 15 November 1843.

Having been requested to state the nature of the disease at present so prevalent amongst the poor in Belfast, I have no hesitation in declaring it to be epidemic contagious fever. On this ground I have recommended the fever hospital committee to limit the number of patients to one in each bed, viz. 222; and even this number of beds I consider more than our wards can properly accommodate.

I am, &c.
(signed) *James Seaton Read*, M.D.
Physician to the Fever Hospital.

The present fever is mild, but more than usually prevalent; the prevalence is owing to its contagious nature and the tendency to relapse; the epidemic may be considered to be a mild form of typhus fever, attended with little danger, unless when the disorder is complicated with either chest or abdominal affections, and that, unless soon remedied, it is apt to become rapidly worse. It may be expected, however, in a short time, that the fever will be less prevalent.

(signed) *William Matier*, M.D.

No. 21100, D/43.

COPY Letter from Mr. *Lamont*, forwarded with the foregoing Minutes.

Sir, Belfast Hospital, 16 November 1843.

I HAVE been directed by the committee to forward to you, for the information of the Board of Guardians, the accompanying certificates from the physicians at present attending the fever hospital, with regard to the prevailing epidemic; and also to state, in addition, that the number of patients at present in the house (348) is, as far as can be ascertained, the highest number which the hospital contained at any particular time during former epidemics. I observe, in referring to the report of the hospital respecting the epidemic fever of 1817, when the present hospital was erected, that the highest number stated appears to have been 216, although at that time, I understand, many of the patients were lying on beds placed on the landing places; since then two severe epidemic fevers have raged

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

raged in Belfast, one during the years 1836 and 1837, when the greatest number was 268, which included those in the Board of Health Hospital, at the old barracks, which was opened to relieve this hospital, when only 213 patients occupied it, and the number then was limited to 200, as being the highest number this building could then, with justice to the patients, accommodate; and again in February 1840, the greatest number was 218, when a Board of Health was a second time established.

I am, &c.

To the Chairman of the Board of Guardians. (signed) *A. E. Lamont*,
House Surgeon.

IN order to afford additional accommodation for fever cases: That the shed in the grave-yard, hitherto used as a fever ward, be appropriated for the reception of female patients affected with fever; and that the two sheds in the adjoining yard be tiled and fitted up in a similar manner, with as little delay as possible, for the reception of male cases; and that the committee appointed to confer with the fever hospital committee be authorized to have same done.

That an advertisement be inserted in one of the Belfast newspapers, inviting tenders to contract for fitting up the two sheds in the stone-breaking yard in the same manner as that already in the burial-ground yard; tenders to be lodged with the clerk on Saturday, 1st, 10 o'clock, a. m. That a boiler be procured from the Messrs. Pattersons, to contain about 30 gallons, with one three-quarter inch brass cock, and that two metal grates be procured for same.

That the house carpenters be set to work forthwith to provide the number of bedsteads necessary for furnishing the sheds intended for fever patients.

Letter received from the Poor Law Commissioners, in reply to that from the Board of the 14th instant, relative to the providing of fever accommodation in connexion with the workhouse, and stating that the Commissioners will sanction the suggested arrangements if, when the committee report, the proposed plan be in accordance with the law, and for the interest of the union; and giving as their opinion that a permanent accommodation would be more economical than a temporary one, but that whatever accommodation may be provided must be considered as part of the workhouse, and under the same control and management.

And giving further directions as to the registry and expenses of such fever patients.

That an assistant medical officer be engaged, under the control of the present medical attendant, to attend this portion of the establishment, with as many hired nurses as the number of cases may render necessary.

That a letter be written to the Poor Law Commissioners, stating that the report of the committee appointed to confer with the fever hospital committee has been received, and from the present prevalence of fever, the Board have directed that the two sheds in the stone-breaking yard should be fitted up with as little delay as possible for the reception of fever cases, and that the Board do not contemplate the present required accommodation to be other than temporary.

The Belfast Fever Hospital hitherto having been found adequate to the wants of this locality, except in rare occasions of emergency, such as the present, and to request the Commissioners to sanction the proposed arrangement.

(signed) *Wm. Boyce*, Union Clerk.

No. 21099, D/43.

LETTER from the Clerk to Guardians.

Sir, Workhouse, 16 November 1843.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of Belfast Union to inform you that they, at a special meeting held in the Board-room, workhouse, this day, the 16th instant, having received and considered the report of the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the fever hospital, directed that, subject to the approbation of the Commissioners, the shed in the burial-ground, heretofore used as a fever ward, be appropriated for the reception of female patients, for whom the fever hospital in Belfast affords no more accommodation; and that the two sheds in the adjoining yard be tiled and fitted up in a similar manner, with as little delay as possible, for the reception of male cases.

That an assistant medical officer be engaged, under control of the present medical attendant, to attend this portion of the establishment, with as many hired nurses as the number of cases received may render necessary.

The Board have fixed on this situation as capable of being completely insulated from the rest of the building, and as they contemplate only a temporary provision, the fever hospital in Belfast (as hitherto supported) having been found adequate to the wants of this locality, except in such rare seasons of emergency as the present, I am to request the sanction of the Commissioners to the proposed arrangement.

By order of the Board,

(signed) *Wm. Boyce*,
Union Clerk.

To Arthur Moore, Esq. Chief Clerk,
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

No. 21099, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 17 Nov. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, reporting the proposed temporary arrangements for providing accommodation in connexion with the workhouse of the Belfast Union for persons afflicted with fever, and I am to express the approval of the Commissioners of the arrangements proposed.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Belfast Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 21455.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 November 1843.

THAT the letter from the fever hospital committee respecting the admission of fever cases into the workhouses, and the numbers for which accommodation can be provided, be handed to the Board committee, who are requested to arrange in reference to same.

That an assistant medical attendant be employed to take charge of the temporary fever wards at the workhouse.

That the assistant medical attendant be paid at the rate of 70*l.* a year for attendance and compounding medicine, for so long as his services may be required.

That an advertisement be inserted in the Whig and Chronicle for an assistant medical attendant, to take charge of the fever wards at the workhouse, at salary at the rate of 70*l.* a year for so long as his services may be required; appointment to take place on Thursday, the 23d instant, at 11 o'clock, when candidates are requested to be in attendance.

That printed circulars be sent to all medical men whose names appear in the Directory, informing them of the intention of the Board.

That Dr. Coffey be requested to attend Board meeting on Thursday, at the time of the appointment of an assistant medical attendant.

That a letter be written to the committee of the fever hospital informing them that the Board hope to be ready to receive patients into the workhouse in the end of the week, and to request they would recommend proper nurses to the Board, and direct that such as they do recommend to attend at the workhouse on Thursday, the 23d instant, at 11 o'clock, morning.

That a paid washerwoman be employed to wash the clothing, &c. of the fever patients, and that the fever hospital committee be requested to recommend a person for same.

That a special meeting of the Board be summoned for Thursday, for the purpose of appointing a medical attendant, and fever nurses, and a washerwoman.

No. 21551.

MINUTES of Special Meeting of Board of Guardians, 23 November 1843.

PRESENT: William G. Johnson, esq. chairman, Samuel Greame Fenton, Edward H. Clarke, William Magee, Samuel Nelson, William Stevenson, John Knox, Robert M'Connell, John Cunningham, Henry Murray, John Clark, Joseph Bigger, William Cairns, John F. Ferguson, Robert Lepper, John Wightman, and Patt Macauly, esqrs.

The Board having directed, at their meeting on Tuesday, the 21st instant, that a special meeting of the guardians be summoned for this day, for the purpose of appointing a medical assistant for the fever wards, Belfast Union Workhouse, and also to appoint nurses and washerwomen for same department;

The clerk read a copy of the summons and resolution of the Board for convening the meeting, as also the advertisement in the Whig paper of a medical assistant being wanted, when the Board proceeded to examine and read applications for the office of medical assistant from,

Dr. Joseph Bryson, surgeon.		Dr. James Moore, surgeon.	
Dr. E. Damian,	—	Dr. Wm. Mattier,	—
Dr. J. Aikin,	—	Dr. A. Gardan,	—
Dr. T. S. Reid,	—	Dr. R. F. Dill,	—
Dr. R. W. Cooke,	—		

On a poll being taken, there was for J. Aikin, five votes; J. S. Reid, four votes; R. W. Cooke, two votes; James Moore, one vote; R. F. Dill, one vote.

There not being a majority of votes of the guardians present, a second poll was taken; when there was for J. Aikin, six votes; J. S. Reid, five votes; R. F. Dill, two votes.

None of the candidates having a majority of the votes of the guardians present, a third poll was taken, when there was for J. Aikin, eight votes; J. S. Reid, five votes. In all, 13 votes, being the number of guardians present at the time.

Surgeon

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Surgeon John Aikin having a majority of the votes of guardians present, was declared duly elected the assistant medical attendant to the fever wards, Belfast Workhouse, salary at the rate of 70 *l.* a year, for so long as he may be required, and that he enter on the duties of the office forthwith, as there have been already admitted six cases of fever to the fever wards.

That a letter be written to the Poor Law Commissioners, requesting them to confirm Mr. Aikin's appointment as assistant medical attendant, salary at the rate of 70 *l.* per annum, for so long as his services may be required in the temporary fever wards, workhouse.

That so soon as the number of fever patients in the Belfast Fever Hospital be reduced to 224, the number for which there is hospital accommodation, the Board direct that no more persons affected with fever be admitted into the temporary fever wards at the workhouse.

That the house surgeon, fever hospital, be requested to furnish this Board with the weekly statement of the numbers in hospital.

That a letter be written to the Poor Law Commissioners, to inquire whether the expense of the fever patients (not pauper inmates in the house) admitted into the wards of the workhouse, shall be charged to the union at large, or to the electoral division of the union to which they may belong.

The clerk reports having written the letter to the house surgeon, fever hospital, informing him the Board hope to be ready to receive fever patients in the latter end of the week, copy of which letter was read to the Board; and, notwithstanding that letter, the medical superintendents of districts, Belfast, had sent in, late last night, six fever patients, which the master was obliged to receive, and who were placed in the fever ward, workhouse.

It appearing from the occurrences of yesterday, that the letter from this Board, of the 21st instant, has been misunderstood,

Resolved, That in future no fever cases will be admitted into the workhouse fever wards, without an order countersigned by Dr. Aikin, the assistant medical attendant, who will supply, at his shop, Corn Market, orders for such numbers as can be accommodated from day to day.

That a copy of the above resolution be sent to the fever hospital, and to each of the district medical attendants in Belfast.

That two carpenters be employed, and set to work forthwith, to make such number of bedsteads as are immediately required to fit up the fever sheds.

That Margaret Armstrong be appointed head nurse in the fever ward, at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per week, and rations as per scale below.

That Anne Murray be appointed assistant head nurse, at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per week, and rations as per scale; to enter on her duties when required by the medical attendant, Surgeon Aikin.

That Margaret Armstrong enter on her duties, as fever-ward nurse, forthwith.

That the following be the rations for the nurses in the fever wards, Belfast Workhouse, viz.:—Three and a half pounds meat, three and a half pounds bread, three and a half ounces tea, one pound sugar, 21 lbs. potatoes, half a pound butter, weekly; 10 ounces oatmeal, one pint sweet milk, daily.

That Margaret M'Guiry and Nancy Dugan, who have been recommended as assistant fever nurses, be kept on the list as such. Margaret M'Anamy, senior, be kept on the list as a washerwoman.

That Bella Davison be appointed as washerwoman to the fever wards, at the rate of 5*s.* per week.

That all communication with the fever wards be cut off from the workhouse, and that persons appointed as washerwomen be paid a weekly salary, and to sleep out of the workhouse; and all washing to be done in the apartment fitted up at the fever sheds' yard for that purpose.

That the assistant nurses be taken from amongst the inmates, if such can be had, and recommended by the master, and subject to the approval of the assistant medical attendant; and that all appointments and dismissals from the fever wards, of nurses, be reported to the Board weekly.

That a copy of the following instructions be furnished to Dr. Coffey and Dr. Aikin, viz.:

The assistant medical attendant shall have the entire medical charge of all patients in the fever wards, subject to the inspection of the medical officer of this house. The assistant shall visit twice daily, or oftener, if urgent cases may require it. He shall hand to the medical officer of the house, on each Monday, a report of the number and state of patients under his charge, which report is to be transmitted to the Board of Guardians, with such remarks as Dr. Coffey may judge necessary, after visiting the fever sheds, which he shall do not less than twice a week. The discharges from the fever sheds of convalescents who belong to this house, shall be subject to the veto of Dr. Coffey. Convalescents not belonging to the house, who may be proper objects for being received as inmates, shall be dealt with as provisional cases, subject in like manner to Dr. Coffey's veto.

All convalescents who are fit to be discharged to their own houses, shall at once be discharged by the assistant medical officer.

(signed) *Wm. Boyce*, Union Clerk.

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

No. 21509.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Belfast Union Workhouse, 23 November 1843.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians, Belfast Union, to inform you that Surgeon John Aikin has been appointed to the office of assistant medical attendant for the fever wards, workhouse, salary at the rate of 70 *l.* a year for so long as his services may be required; and I am to request the Poor Law Commissioners' approval to the above temporary appointment.

By order of the Board,

To Arthur Moore, Esq. Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission Office. (signed) *Wm. Boyce*, Union Clerk.

No. 21834.

LETTER from Mr. *Senior*, enclosing Resolution of the Board of Guardians, and reporting on the foregoing Letter.

Gentlemen, Laine, 28 November 1843.

I HAVE to report to you that, under the pressing emergency of the case (the fever hospital, and the temporary sheds used by the guardians both being full), I assumed the responsibility of assuring the guardians that you would sanction the enclosed resolution, whereby additional accommodation will be provided for at least 40 patients.

As regards the salary of the medical officer, Mr. John Aikin, who possesses a legal qualification, it is to be observed that he is required to attend at the workhouse at least twice a day, that he now has 30 patients under his care, and that this number will, in all probability, be largely increased. The resolution appointing a paid washerwoman was made on the following grounds: it was obviously unsafe that the linen of the fever patients should be washed with the house linen, or enter the house; and it was not considered advisable that the person so engaged should communicate with the paupers in the body of the house. All the exterior accommodation of the house being full, the person engaged could not sleep at the sheds, and it was therefore thought safest to pay a temporary person for that purpose, who should not sleep on the premises.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Senior*, Assistant Commissioner.

ENCLOSURES in foregoing Report.

No. 21859.

I.—Letter from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Workhouse, 28 November 1843.

HEREWITH I beg to hand you copy of a resolution of the Board of Guardians, Belfast Union, at their meeting this day, in reference to the appropriating the new building intended as a nursery at the workhouse for the reception of fever patients, the present accommodation in the temporary fever wards being insufficient, and from the Belfast Fever Hospital being now closed, the numbers being so great in hospital as to exceed their accommodation.

I am to request the Commissioners' sanction to the setting apart that building accordingly.

By order of the Board,

To Arthur Moore, Esq. Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission Office. (signed) *Wm. Boyce*, Union Clerk.

II.—Resolution of Board of Guardians.

Belfast Union, 28 November 1843.

Resolved, That permission be asked from the Poor Law Commissioners to use the new building, intended as a nursery, for receiving fever patients, and that a part of the yard be barricaded off the female ward yard, in front of said building, to prevent any communication with the inmates, and that a part of the grounds in the outside of same building be also enclosed, and that a privy be built.

The medical officers report that there is no danger to apprehend to the inmates from the above proposed precautions in using the nursery building for fever wards.

The guardians find it necessary to provide more extensive accommodation than that already found, from the fact that the Belfast Fever Hospital has been closed, being full, and cannot at present offer any accommodation.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 21551.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the above Minutes of 23d November.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 1 December 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union, at a special meeting on the 23d ultimo, convened for the purpose of appointing a medical attendant for the fever hospital, in connexion with the workhouse of the Belfast Union, and making other arrangements connected therewith; and have directed me to express their approval of the several arrangements proposed, and also of the appointment of the following officers for the fever wards; viz. Mr. John Aikin as medical attendant, at a salary of 70 *l.* per annum; Margaret Armstrong and Anne Murray as nurses, each at a remuneration of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per week, and an allowance of rations; and Bella Davison as washerwoman, at a remuneration of 5 *s.* per week.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Belfast Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 21859.

LETTER to the Guardians in reply to the above Letter of 28th November.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 1 December 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them your letter of the 28th ultimo, enclosing a resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union, requesting permission to use the new building intended as a nursery for receiving fever patients; and I am to state that, under the existing pressure, the Commissioners will not object to the proposed arrangement, except so far as regards the lessening the women's yard; but in thus sanctioning the occupation of this new building for the purpose, the guardians will fully understand that the Commissioners only give their consent to the arrangement proposed until the guardians are able to provide accommodation which is less objectionable on the ground of the security required against contagion; and the Commissioners would urge upon the guardians the necessity of an immediate consideration of this important subject.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Belfast Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 21508.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Workhouse, 23 November 1843.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of Belfast Union to inquire of the Poor Law Commissioners whether the expense of the fever patients (not pauper inmates in the house) admitted into the wards of the workhouse shall be charged to the union at large, or to the electoral divisions of the union to which they may belong. Your reply at early convenience will oblige.

By order of the Board,

To Arthur Moore, Esq. Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission Office. (signed) *Wm. Boyce*, Union Clerk.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 24 November 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, inquiring whether fever patients (not pauper inmates in the house) admitted into the wards of the workhouse should be charged to the union at large, or to the electoral divisions to which they may belong; and in reply, I am to refer you to their circular of the 25th September last, in which it is stated that the "maintenance and relief of such persons will be charged in the same manner as if the relief were afforded in the workhouse." *See* page 2.

The Commissioners presume that by the expression "wards in the workhouse," you mean the temporary out-wards which have been provided on the workhouse grounds.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, Belfast Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 21932.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 November 1843.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon, as follows:—

Master reports, in consequence of the increase of fever patients, "an additional nurse was required

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

required by Dr. Aickin, when I recommended Margaret Kelly, a pauper, who was discharged, and commenced her duties on the 25th instant."

The third fever shed will be ready for the reception of patients to-morrow morning.

The following letters from the Poor Law Commissioners and others were read by the clerk, and directions given to answer them respectively, to the following effect (or orders made on them respectively, as follows):—

Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, in reply to a letter of the 23d from the Board, in reference to the manner of charging fever patients (not pauper inmates) on the electoral divisions, referring the guardians to their circular of the 25th September 1843, and stating that the maintenance and relief of such persons should be charged in the same manner as if the relief was afforded in the workhouse.

Letter from Mr. Lamont, house surgeon, fever hospital, accompanying weekly return of the number admitted, &c., and remaining in hospital, as also a copy of a resolution from Belfast Fever Hospital committee.

Eliza Miller be admitted to be employed as a nurse to the fever wards, in the same manner as the other inmates of the house.

Sir, Belfast Fever Hospital, 25 November 1843.

ALONG with the weekly report of the state of fever in this hospital, I am directed by the committee to forward you a copy of the following resolution.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. E. Lamont*, House Surgeon.

Resolved, That this committee instruct their medical officer, resident, not to admit fever patients, until the numbers in hospital be reduced to 250; and that at no time in future shall that number be exceeded.

For the Board of Guardians.

REPORT of the Belfast Fever Hospital, for the Week ending Saturday 25th November 1843.

Remaining in Hospital 18 November 1843.			Admitted since.			Discharged.			Died.		
Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
146	199	345	43	47	90	38	40	78	1	7	8

Remaining in Hospital 25th November 1843.

Males	150
Females	199
TOTAL	349

349 patients; accommodation, 222 beds.

Resolved, That permission be asked from the Poor Law Commissioners to use the new building intended as a nursery for receiving fever patients, and that a part of the yard be barricaded off the female ward yard in front of said building, to prevent any communication with the inmates; and that a part of the grounds in the outside of same building be also enclosed, that a privy be built.

The medical officers report that there is no danger to apprehend to the inmates from the above proposed precautions in using the nursery building for fever wards. The guardians find it necessary to provide more extensive accommodation than that already found from the fact that the Belfast Fever Hospital has been closed, being full, and cannot at present afford any accommodation.

[See copies of the above resolutions accompanying Mr. Senior's report of 28 November 1843, *ante*.]

That the division to which fever patients are charged on their admission into the workhouse be entered in red ink in the register, in consequence of the difficulty the guardians have to contend with in these cases, and that all fever admissions shall be subject to a revision and examination of the patients before they be discharged, in order finally to fix the division to which they ought to belong.

That in all cases where there is not sufficient evidence as to residence, they be charged on the union at large.

That Mr. Halliday and Dr. M'Gee be a committee of the Board to revise and examine the fever patients, previous to their being discharged, so as to ascertain and fix the division to which they shall be chargeable.

That the district medical attendants be requested to state in their tickets of admission if the fever patients whom they send in have or have not been resident 12 months in Belfast

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Belfast of the last 18 months, and that all cases admitted without this information be charged to the union, until finally decided by report of committee of revision.

That admission tickets be forwarded to the medical superintendent of districts.

That except in urgent cases none of the friends of fever patients will be permitted to visit them, and then subject to a permission from Doctor Aickin, medical attendant of the fever wards.

REPORT of Fever Wards, November 25th, 1843.

Cases admitted since the 23d: males 5; females 14; remaining in the fever wards 19.

Medicine wanted for Fever Wards.

3 bottles castor oil.	2 ½ lbs. acetic acid.
3½ lbs. Epsom salts.	1 lb. carb. of ammoniac.
3½ lbs. cream of tartar.	2 lbs. gum arabic.
1 lb. senna leaves.	4 lbs. prep. chalk.
1 quart spirits of turpentine.	16 oz. laudanum.
2 oz. calomel.	3 lbs. molasses.
4 oz. powdered jalap.	½ lb. spirits of nitre.
2 oz. leamrius.	12 leeches.
1 doz. emp. purif.	2 lbs. tartaric acid.
½ lb. blistering plaster.	2 lbs. carb. soda.
8 oz powdered ginger.	1 qt. spirits.
1 lb. gentian root.	1 lb. honey.
2 oz. mercury with chalk.	4 oz. ben borax.
2 oz. Dover's powder.	½ oz. powdered opium.
4 p. rhubarb.	An enema syringe.

A machine is wanting to bring the patients into hospital. I think that a hand-cart, fitted up with springs and covered over, would be used with much less labour than a chair, and less expense than any other mode of conveyance. The sheds are neither air nor water tight; neither the roofs or sides are secure, and the bedding has been much wet in consequence.

(signed) *John Aickin*, Medical Attendant.

Thirty-one patients in the hospital, or fever sheds, 27 November 1843.

No. 21932.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 11 December 1843.

REFERRING to a resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union, on the 28th ultimo, that the division to which fever patients are charged on their admission into the workhouse be entered in red ink, and that all fever admissions be subject to revision and examination before they are discharged, in order finally to fix the divisions to which they ought to belong, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to state that they would recommend the guardians to provide a duplicate copy of the register book for the use of the master, in which he shall enter only the patients admitted to the fever wards; when their allocation is decided upon by the guardians, the master can make the entry in the regular register book; and in order to enable the master to keep the relief list correctly, and the maintenance account in the ledger according to such relief list, it will be absolutely necessary for the guardians each week to decide upon the allocation of all paupers admitted up to that day.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Belfast Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 22365.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 December 1843.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon as follows:—

Master reports, in consequence of the increase of fever patients, "I have found it necessary to employ another washerwoman: Mary Millikin, a pauper, was discharged on the 1st instant and entered on her duties as such; I respectfully request she may be continued. The conduct of Anne Murray was such that I informed her it would be my duty to report it to Dr. Aickin, with the intention of recommending her discharge, upon which she left the house. The doctor expressed himself satisfied that she had done so, as her duties had not been performed as he expected. Eliza Clark, a nurse known to Dr. Aickin, replaced Anne Murray. On Sunday Dr. Aickin requested me to see nurse Dangan out of the house, for creating great discontent among the patients, and grossly neglecting her duty. Margaret M'Waney replaced the above, Dr. Aickin considering her qualified. The doctor having applied for two additional nurses, I recommended Anne Jane Connally, a pauper, for one; the other

 was

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Belfast Union.

was highly recommended by Dr. Coffey, as being an excellent nurse. They were both approved of by Dr. Aickin. Anne Jane Connally entered on her duties the 2d, and Sarah M'Bride the 4th instant.

Total number of nurses - - - - - -	6
Washerwomen - - - - - - - -	2

Workhouse Fever Wards Report, for the Week ending 2d December 1843.

Under cure on the 25th ultimo - - - - - - -	19
Admitted since - - - - - - - - - - -	50
Total - - -	69
Discharged - - - - - - - - - - - -	1
Died - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1
Remaining in hospital - - - - - - - - -	67
Total - - -	69

William Rea, admitted in a very weak state, and suffering under the effects of irreducible hernia, died about 48 hours after admission; his age was 64.

Since Saturday, nine were admitted; on Sunday, one of whom was so weak and exhausted when brought in, that he only lived a few hours. Another woman, aged 69, admitted under similar circumstances, lies dangerously ill.

Correct.

(signed) *John Aickin*, Surgeon of Fever Wards.
Robert Coffey, Ditto of the House, Belfast.

Sir, Belfast, November 1843.

The undersigned district medical attendants of the Belfast poor, in connexion with the fever hospital, beg to acknowledge the receipt of copies of a resolution stated to have been passed at a recent meeting of the Board of Guardians of this union, and to which your name is attached as union clerk.

With that part of the resolution which refers to the duties of the assistant medical attendants the undersigned do not concur themselves; but they beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Board, that they decline giving orders for the admission of patients to the workhouse fever wards, subject to the approval or countersignature of any medical officer whatever.

To Mr. William Boyce, Union Clerk.

N.B.—Two other district medical attendants expressed their determination not to act (in accordance with our resolution), but withheld their names.

William Moffat, M.D. - -	No. 2,	Division	A.
John Woods Beck, M.D. -	3,	„	A.
R. T. Dill, M.D. - - -	2,	„	A.
James Moore, M.D. - -	3,	„	B.
William Matin, M.D.			
Alexander Gordon, M.D. -	1,	„	B.
A. G. Malcamson, M.D. -	2,	„	B.
Samuel Braeun, surgeon, Royal Navy.			
Charles D. Purdon, M.D. -	No. 1,	Division	A.
Thomas Thompson, M.D. -	3,	„	B.
Arthur Donnelly, M.D. -	5,	„	A.
Alexander Harkin, M.R.C.S.L.	4,	„	B.
J. F. Kidley, M.D. - -	1,	„	A.
H. Stewart, M.D. - -	4,	„	A.
John Clark, M.D. - -	6,	„	B.
R. W. Coake, M.D. S.R.C.S.	5,	„	A.

Considering any countercheck derogatory to the profession, specially when devoting themselves to the public weal gratuitously.

(signed) *R. W. Coake.*

Gentlemen, Belfast Union Workhouse, 5 December 1843.

The Board of Guardians of the Belfast Union beg to refer your committee to the communication from the medical district attendants enclosed, (Nos. 1 and 2, also their answer to No. 1,) which have reached this Board, relative to their resolution of the 23d ult., for regulating the admission of patients into the fever wards of this workhouse; "and as," to use

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

use Dr. Beck's own words, "these gentlemen are your and not our servants," we beg through you to disclaim having any object in view in forwarding those resolutions, other than to regulate the number of patients in proportion to the accommodation.

As we wish to avoid any hardship or inconvenience being inflicted on the humbler classes of our countrymen, we shall arrange that a statement shall be sent each day to your house surgeon, specifying the number of male adults, female adults, and of young, who can be accommodated, and the district medical attendants can receive from your house surgeon the necessary orders for admission, instead of applying at Dr. Aickin's, as heretofore.

(signed) *Richard B. Blakiston Haveston*,
Chairman of the Board of Guardians.

To the Committee
of the Fever Hospital, Belfast.

No. 22730.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 December 1843.

FEVER hospital committee report received as follows:

REPORT of the Fever Hospital for the Week ending 9 December 1843.

Remaining 2d December.			Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining 9th December.		
Male.	Female.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
111	175	286	—	—	—	39	52	91	—	3	3	72	120	192

(signed) *A. E. Lamont*, House Surgeon.

The committee this day assembled have decided to admit fever patients henceforth as usual till further notice.

Resolved, That no more fever patients be received into the workhouse until the number in the fever hospital rises to 250, and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Lamont, the house surgeon, fever hospital.

Belfast Workhouse Fever Wards.

Report on Week ending 9 December 1843.

Under care the 2d instant - - - - - - - -	67
Admitted - - - - - - - - - -	59
	126
Discharged - - - - - - - - - -	20
Died - - - - - - - - - -	2
Remaining under cure - - - - - - - - -	104
	126

The two deaths which occurred were those mentioned in last week's report, and were moribund when admitted.

Two distinct types of fever have prevailed among those admitted, and attended with severe gastric symptoms, which generally forms a crisis on the fourth day, but very frequently relapsing in four or five days after; the most of the female cases have been of this type; the other is the usual typhus, becoming convalescent about the 12th or 14th day. Many aggravated cases of this kind have occurred in the male wards, lying entirely covered with petechia; and very bad case of complaint, small-pox, have occurred among the men.

Several young children have been admitted with their mothers, some of whom had not fever, but sent in by way of accommodation, which has hazarded the lives of both mothers and children. It is impossible for mothers to take care of children at the breast, when they are so ill, and frequently in a state of delirium, that they cannot take care of themselves; the mothers are deprived of rest, and often let their children fall out of bed. Children under four years are not admissible into the fever hospital.

(signed) *John Aichin*, Surgeon of Fever Wards.

12 December 1843.—103 patients in the fever wards this day.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

No. 22732.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Belfast Union Workhouse, 13 December 1843.

IN reply to your letter, No. 21932. D. of 11th instant, in reference to the Commissioners recommending a duplicate register to be provided for entering the names of patients admitted into the fever wards, I am directed by the guardians to inform the Poor Law Commissioners that the divisions to which all persons admitted in fever or otherwise should be charged on has been finally fixed and regularly entered in the register; and as the fever hospital is again open for the reception of fever patients, the Board will not find it now necessary to have a duplicate register, as recommended by the Commissioners.

By order of the Board,

To Arthur Moore, Esq. (signed) *William Boyce*, Union Clerk.
Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission.

No. 23147.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 19 December 1843.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon, as follows:

Medical attendant, fever wards, workhouse, states that in all likelihood the sheds will again be occupied with fever cases, and requests that one of them may be immediately examined, and the roof repaired.

The following letters from the Poor Law Commissioners and others, were read by the clerk:—

Letter from fever hospital committee, accompanying a return of the number admitted and discharged and remaining in hospital on Saturday the 16th instant. Also a resolution of committee stating that 215 is the number can be accommodated in hospital, and that when they on a former occasion mentioned 250, they had to deprive the resident medical attendant of his apartments, and also over-crowded the wards to meet the emergency; but since they have been compelled to restore the attendant his room, he having been seized with fever, and giving the number of beds at present to be 215, and consider that number the proper limit for admission into the Belfast Fever Hospital.

That Mr. M'Cance be requested to give the necessary directions for having a door of communication made in the double-roofed shed, to enable the nurse during the night to visit the patients.

In reference to the letter and resolution of the Belfast Fever Hospital committee,—

Resolved, That as a large number of the fever cases now arising still assume a very mild form, the Board of Guardians think no risk, or even any inconvenience, can arise from two young persons, or parent and child, being placed in the same bed, should such a step be required from the disease continuing to spread.

That as in February 1840, and prior to the building of the additional shed, 218 patients were accommodated in the fever hospital, this Board still think the minimum number of 250 fever cases should appear to be in the fever hospital before patients be admitted into the workhouse fever sheds or wards.

That a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to the fever hospital committee.

Report of the Fever Hospital for the week ending 16 December 1843.

Hospital.	Remaining 9th December.			Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining 16 Dec. 1843.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Fever - -	72	120	192	42	43	85	38	31	69	1	2	3	83	122	205
Medical & Surgical - -	10	10	20	3	6	9	1	2	3	–	–	–	10	16	26

(signed) *A. E. Lamont*, House Surgeon, Fever Hospital.

Belfast

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Belfast Union Workhouse.—Fever Wards Report for the Week ending 16 December 1843. BELFAST UNION.

Under cure the 9th instant	106	
Admitted from the workhouse	4	
		110
Discharged	26	
Died	3	
Remaining in hospital	81	
		110

Died, December 11th, Rawley Hannah. This man was admitted in a state of great debility, caused apparently from the want of sustenance, being in abject poverty.

December 14th, John M'Quillan. He was admitted as a case of fever, but shortly after his admission small-pox appeared, which soon assumed the complaint, from the effects of which he died on the tenth day of his illness.

December 15th, John M'Comb. This man was very intemperate, but would probably have recovered had not delirium tremens intervened, which caused his death. Most of the severe dangerous cases of typhus are now convalescing, and most of the cases of the other fever are generally from relapse; those now remaining are, generally speaking, in a safe state. I wish to direct the attention of the Board again to the admission of infants, in order that some provision will be made for taking care of them during the illness of their mother. The remainder of the female patients have been removed to the nursery. The roof of the middle shed would require some repairs.

19 December 1843. (signed) *John Aickin*, Assistant Surgeon.
Robert Coffey, House Surgeon.

No. 23537.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 December 1843.

READ letter from the fever hospital committee in reference to the minimum number of fever admissions into the Belfast Fever Hospital, and stating that the committee, wishing to act consistently with the spirit of this Board's resolution, shall for the present endeavour to accommodate as many fever patients as possible, under the original number, 250; but considering the character of the epidemic is altered, becoming severe, and lately resuming a peculiar form, viz. the complication of jaundice, in which form, since it appears that there has been a mortality of 25 per cent., and accordingly more likely to be aggravated in a crowded state of the hospital, the committee are decidedly of opinion that they cannot safely extend the number agreed upon at the last meeting of the committee.

Report:—Belfast Union Fever Wards for the Week ending 23d December 1843.

Under cure on the 16th instant	81	
Admitted from the workhouse	3	
		84
Discharged	28	
Died	0	
Remaining in hospital	56	
		84

As the numbers are now reduced to about 50, I have dispensed with two of the nurses. Some severe cases of diarrhœa have occurred among the convalescents, for whose use I have been obliged to use what wine I had.

26 December 1843. (signed) *John Aickin*, *Robert Coffey*, } Surgeons.

REPORT of the Belfast Fever Hospital for the Week ending 23d December 1843.

Hospital.	Remaining 16th December.			Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining 23d Dec. 1843.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Fever	83	122	205	31	45	76	26	32	58	–	5	5	88	130	218
Medical & Surgical	10	16	26	–	4	4	1	–	1	–	–	–	9	20	29

(signed) *A. E. Lamont*, House Surgeon.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

No. 344, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 2 January 1844.

THE following letters from the Poor Law Commissioners and others were read by the clerk :—

Letter from the Belfast Fever Hospital committee, stating that the number of female cases in hospital now amount to above 250, and that the committee are under the necessity of refusing further admission of fever patients until sufficient accommodation occurs, the matter of which will be duly forwarded to the guardians.

Letter from same in reference to the form of admission tickets to be used by the medical superintendents of districts, and suggesting the form to be altered so as to meet the views of the medical superintendent, and recommending some means of conveyance for the fever cases to the workhouse fever wards to be provided.

In reference to the letter of the Belfast Fever Hospital committee of 1st January 1844, from the Rev. Dr. Denvir, chairman,

Resolved, That the fever hospital committee be informed that the guardians have altered their form of tickets for admission of fever cases into the workhouse fever wards, as suggested and pointed out by the committee, and have also provided a spring-carriage for the conveyance of fever patients to the workhouse fever wards, which may be had by applying at the workhouse.

That 1,000 copies of the amended form be procured, and left at the fever hospital.

REPORT of the Fever Wards for the Week ending 30th December 1843.

Under cure December the 23d	56
Admitted	8
	66
Discharged	17
Remaining in hospital	47
	64

(signed) *John Aickin*, Surgeon.

REPORT of the Belfast Fever Hospital, Week ending 30th December 1843.

Department.	Remaining 23d December.			Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining 30th December.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Fever	88	130	218	41	52	93	25	29	54	–	3	3	106	148	254
Medical & Surgical	9	20	29	4	3	7	1	4	5	–	–	–	12	19	31

(signed) *A. E. Lamont*, House Surgeon.

No. 761.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 9 January 1844.

Belfast Workhouse Fever Wards, Report for the Week ending 6th January 1844.

Under cure the 30th December	47
Admitted	71
	118
Discharged	14
Died	3
Remaining in hospital	101
	118

January

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

January 9th, 115 in fever wards.

Died, January 2d, Robert Moore, aged 60. This old man was admitted in a very weak state, after recovering from carbuncle, he having got over the attack of fever and also a relapse, but was afterwards seized with severe purging of blood and bilious matter, which ultimately cut him off. Allan Ardies, aged 18; this person only lived about two days after his admission in fever; he was affected for three years previously with disease of his liver, which was found, on examination, to be increased to twice its natural size. Alice Hughes, aged 16; she died suddenly, having been attacked with disease of the brain on the night of her admission; it was supposed to be apoplexy. Several severe cases of typhus gravior were admitted last week. Two of the nurses have been attacked with fever. A man, named M'Garnett, has lost his shirt, in consequence of which he could not be discharged; he was under the care of Anne Murray. As some infants on the breast were admitted this week, I was under the necessity of putting them into an apartment by themselves, and employing an extra nurse to attend them.

(signed) *John Aickin*, M. D., Fever Wards' Surgeon.

No. 1303.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 16 January 1844.

REPORT of the Belfast Fever Hospital, for the Week ending 13th January 1844.

Department.	Remaining 6th January.			Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining 13th January.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Fever - -	90	131	221	28	28	56	19	14	33	1	1	2	98	144	242
Medical & Surgical - -	12	18	30	2	3	5	1	4	5	–	–	–	13	17	30

(signed) *A. E. Lamont*, House Surgeon.

The Poor Law Guardians will perceive that the fever hospital is again nearly full to its highest number of cases, say 250; and the committee beg to call their attention to this fact, in order that they may make their arrangements accordingly.

13 January 1844. (signed) *A. Mulholland*, Chairman.

No. 4048.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 20 February 1844.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read.

The master reports having discharged two of the fever nurses, Anne Jane Connolly and Margaret Kelly, for misconduct. The doctor considered it necessary to employ only one person in their place, and has accordingly put Margaret Miller, one of the fever wards' washerwomen, into that situation; there will be required a washerwoman in her place, which appointment has not been made until receiving directions from the Board.

Ordered, That it be left with the master to select such one of the inmates as he may consider eligible for washerwoman.

Letter from the Belfast Fever Hospital, accompanying resolution of said committee, requesting the guardians to receive a greater number of fever patients, so as to allow the number of fever patients in the Belfast Hospital to be diminished, seeing that the fever hospital is now in debt, without any present means of adding to its funds.

That a letter be written to the Belfast Fever Hospital committee, in reply to their communication of the 12th instant, informing them that this Board regret they cannot accede to their request, as their funds are nearly exhausted; and the fever is arising at the workhouse, owing to the crowded state of the wards, caused by the great number of fever cases that have been already temporarily admitted.

No. 4573.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 27 February 1844.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read.

The clerk reports that Dr. Aickin has resumed his duties as medical attendant at fever wards' workhouse.

The master reports the new building is now occupied as a nursery, having first been thoroughly cleansed by lime-washing and fumigation previous to the children being admitted. All fever cases are now placed in the fever-ward sheds.

The

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

The master reports two fever nurses have been dispensed with.

Dr. Coffey having taken charge of, and attended the fever wards, from the 11th January till the 19th February, during which time Mr. Aickin was confined with fever contracted in our wards, and Mr. Aickin having now resumed charge, we recommend the sum of 7*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, being at the same rate allowed Mr. Aickin, be paid Dr. Coffey, for his extra services during the above period.

No. 4523.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Workhouse, 28 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians, Belfast Union, to inform the Poor Law Commissioners, that Dr. Coffey having taken charge of and attended the fever wards, from the 11th January 1844 till the 19th February 1844, during which time Mr. Aickin, medical attendant of workhouse fever wards, was confined with fever contracted in our wards, and Mr. Aickin having now resumed charge, they recommend that the sum of 7*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, being at the same rate allowed Mr. Aickin, be paid Dr. Coffey, for his extra services during the above period; and I am to request the Poor Law Commissioners' sanction to the above sum being paid to Dr. Coffey.

I have, &c.

To Arthur Moore, esq. Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission Office. (signed) *William Boyce*, Union Clerk.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 4 March 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, requesting the sanction of the Commissioners to the proposed payment of 7*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* to Dr. Coffey, medical officer of the workhouse, for his services in attending the fever wards during the time that Mr. Aickin was disabled by illness.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to express their sanction to the proposed payment, provided of course that the amount be deducted from the salary of Mr. Aickin, in place of whom Dr. Coffey attended.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Belfast Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 5313.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 March 1844.

THAT a letter be written to the Poor Law Commissioners, in reply to their letter, No. 4523, D/44, dated March 1844, in reference to the amount, 7*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* allowance to Dr. Coffey, for attendance at fever wards during the illness of Dr. Aickin; and recommending that no deduction be made from Mr. Aickin's salary, as he took fever of a very peculiar kind, while in discharge of his duties as medical attendant in the workhouse fever wards.

No. 5229.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Workhouse, 6 March 1844.

IN reply to your letter, No. 4523, D/44, of 4th instant, I am directed by the guardians, Belfast Union, in reference to the amount, 7*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* requested allowance to Dr. Coffey, for attendance at fever wards during the illness of Surgeon Aickin, and respectfully recommending that no deduction be made from Mr. Aickin's salary, as he took fever of a very peculiar kind, while in the discharge of his duties as medical attendant in the workhouse fever wards, I am to request the Poor Law Commissioners' sanction for the payment of the above amount to Dr. Coffey accordingly.

By order of the Board,

To Arthur Moore, esq. Chief Clerk, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin. (signed) *William Boyce*, Union Clerk.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 8 March 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, relative to the proposed payment of 7*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* to Dr. Coffey for attending the fever wards at the workhouse of the Belfast Union during the illness of Mr. Aickin, and

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

and I am to state that under the circumstances of the case the Commissioners sanction the payment to Dr. Coffey, without requiring that the amount he deducted from Mr. Aickin's salary, but the sanction given in this case must not be considered as a precedent.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Belfast Union.

No. 7144.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 March 1844.

THE reports of the master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon as follows:—

The master reports, in consequence of the decrease of fever, two of the nurses have been discharged.

That as all the patients in the fever wards are now inmates of the workhouse, and as fever is much abated in Belfast, the services of the assistant medical attendant may be dispensed with, and the cases now under care transferred to the charge of Dr. Coffey.

That the thanks of the Board be given to Mr. Aickin for his unremitting attention to the patients under his care, and the Board regrets his long confinement from fever contracted in this workhouse.

Report of the workhouse fever wards for the week ending 23d March 1844:—

Under cure the 16th instant	35	
Admitted	3	
		38
Discharged	14	
Died	2	
Remaining in hospital	22	
		38

March 26th: In hospital 10, of whom 8 belong to the workhouse.

General report of patients admitted into the workhouse fever wards from the 25th of November 1843 until the 26th March 1844:—

* Admitted		404
Discharged	376	
Died	18	
Remaining under cure	10	
		404

Though several cases of typhus gravior have been admitted into the fever wards, yet the greatest number assumed the type of fever described as prevailing in Edinburgh and Glasgow during the course of last summer and autumn, consisting in great derangement of the liver and stomach, approaching to symptoms of inflammation of those organs, followed in several cases with jaundice, rheumatic symptoms, and affections of the chest; the prevalence of abortion in females, all of whom had premature labour, that were admitted in a state of pregnancy, some very early in that state; but the type of fever was particularly tending in its intermitting form, the second stage of fever occurring regularly on the fourteenth day. Many had a third attack; these cases were very severe, being very weak from the previous attack. One severe symptom occurred, which I have not found noticed in these reports, namely, the prevalence of bilious diarrhœa, which in many cases was very intractable, and producing hæmorrhage from the bowels. Three of the deaths were caused by this affection. Some of the patients were affected both with this type of fever and typhus. Of the 18 deaths reported, three were not affected with fever: Ellen Drain and Jane Oakley, inflammation of the chest; and John M'Quillan's complaint, small-pox. This reduces the deaths to 15; eight of them of persons of advanced age, four in a third attack, and three, as before stated, in bilious diarrhœa. One girl, Alice Hughes, died suddenly on the day after her admission, with an affection of the head. The number of patients is now reduced to 10; eight of them are from the workhouse. We have had no admissions from the town, with the exception of one family, during the last four weeks; and as the fever hospital has been found sufficient to accommodate the cases that have been, it is evident that fever is decreasing. I consider it right to state to the Board that Margaret Armstrong has been most assiduous and faithful in the discharge of her duty; never saw any one more so; and I attribute to her great care the few cases of deaths which have occurred in the female wards.

Proportion of Males and Females admitted.

	Males, 184	Females, 220	Total, 404.
Deaths:	Males, 11	Females, 7	Total, 18.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

BELFAST UNION.

DEATHS.

DATE.	NAME.	AGE.	
Dec. 4	Ellen Drain - - - -	60	Moribund when admitted by Board.
11	Rowley Hanna - - -	35	
14	John M'Quillan - - -	17	Confluent small-pox.
15	John M'Comb - - -	29	A hard drinker, ending in delirium.
Jan. 2	Ellen Ardies - - - -	18	Died on the third day, from enlargement of liver.
"	Robert Moore - - -	60	Bilious diarrhœa.
6	Alice Hughes - - -	15	Died suddenly of apoplexy.
11	Henry Martin - - -	35	Third attack.
13	John Bamford - - -	31	Ditto.
23	John Blair - - - -	26	Ditto.
Feb. 4	James Browne - - -	51	Ditto.
8	Anne Browne - - -	54	
15	Daniel Dowd - - -	50	
19	Jane Oakley - - - -	20	
22	Thomas Brady - - -	56	Bilious diarrhœa.
March 2	Thomas M'Gee - - -	77	
18	Rose M'Key - - - -	55	Third relapse.
20	Sarah Hanna - - - -	37	Ending in mortification.

(signed) *John Aikin.*
Doctor of Fever Wards.

26 March 1844.

Note.—The guardians have since resolved to add a fever ward on the workhouse site, and have applied for plans accordingly, which will be furnished to them.

CALLAN UNION.

CALLAN UNION.

5864, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 March 1844.

THE Earl of Desart moved that the clerk write to the Poor Law Commissioners, stating, that owing to the prevalence of fever in the union, the guardians are anxious to make provision for few so affected, and ask the Commissioners' advice how far it may be lawful for them to make provision for those so affected, not being pauper inmates of the workhouse; and also to inform the Commissioners that there are no fever wards in the workhouse, but that there are in the union few hospitals, to which a small subscription given, would give the guardians power to send few patients. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas Shaw, and carried unanimously.

5924.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Poor Law Office, Callan, 14 March 1844.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to inform you, that fever is now prevalent in different parts of the union, and that the guardians are desirous of affording relief to destitute poor persons so affected, and as there is no accommodation for such patients in the workhouse, the guardians desire to be informed by the Poor Law Commissioners of the best and most proper course for them to take to administer the contemplated relief. The Board directs me further to inform the Commissioners that there are in the union three hospitals; one is two miles from Callan, the other is within seven miles of Callan, and the third is in the town of Callan. The former hospital is supported by the Earl of Desart, the second by public subscription, and the hospital in Callan is principally supported by the profits of the "Callan Loan Fund," No. 2. In the latter hospital there are 36 beds, made after the workhouse plan, 24 of which are fully furnished, a nurse-tender's room furnished, and a surgery.

The medical officer of the workhouse is the physician who attends it.

And as the guardians have resolved to exercise the powers vested in them by the 15th and 16th sections of the 6th and 7th Victoria, cap. 92, to administer relief and provide accommodation for destitute poor persons affected with fever or other contagious disease, they respectfully submit that the Poor Law Commissioners will supply them with the necessary information on the subject, at their earliest convenience.

By order of the Board,

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

(signed) *Richard Colleton,*
Clerk of the Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Callan Union, on the 13th instant, on the subject of the prevalence of fever in the union, requesting the Commissioners' advice as to the course which it may be lawful for the guardians to pursue in relieving persons afflicted with fever, and pointing out the accommodation which exists in the union for the treatment of fever patients. The Commissioners have also had before them your letter of the 14th instant, on the same subject.

In reference thereto, the Commissioners have directed me to state, that in other unions in which, as in the Callan Union, there are fever hospitals, available to the Board of Guardians, the authorities of the hospitals on being applied to by the guardians, have made and submitted to the Board a calculation of the cost per day of the maintenance and treatment of a patient labouring under fever, with a proposal as to the terms on which they would receive into their institutions persons so afflicted who may be sent by the Boards. The proposal has then been taken into consideration by the Board of Guardians, and they, with the Commissioners' concurrence, have made an agreement with the authorities of the fever hospitals for the admission of patients on the terms proposed and approved.

The expense incurred in sending the patient to the fever hospital, and in maintaining him there, is then charged to the electoral division to which such patient may be chargeable, or to the union at large, as the case may be.

The Commissioners would prefer this mode of payment to an annual subscription, inasmuch as there would be considerable difficulty in properly apportioning the amount of the subscription on the electoral divisions, or the union at large, in proportion to the number of patients admitted, and the times during which they were respectively inmates of the fever hospital.

In the relief of persons labouring under fever, the guardians will carefully distinguish between the cases to be relieved under the 15th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, and those to be relieved under the 16th section. The observations made in the second paragraph of this letter relate to persons who, being previously in the workhouse, are removed from thence to a fever hospital. Under the 16th section, the guardians are empowered to hire or rent a house for the reception and medical treatment of persons affected with fever or any other dangerous or contagious disease, whether previously resident in the workhouse or not, and the Commissioners will readily entertain any proposition of that kind which may be submitted to them by the guardians.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the
Callan Union, Callan.

CARRICKMACROSS UNION.

No. 17608, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 September 1843.

THE master having stated to the Board that a person had been recommended during the past week, in a state of fever, for admission into the workhouse, by the warden of the electoral division of Dromhrony, the master was ordered to report the facts of the case to the next meeting in writing.

No. 18174.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 3 October 1843.

THE master reported to the Board the facts and circumstances of the case of the person in fever alluded to in the minutes of the proceedings at the last meeting, and the guardians expressed themselves satisfied at the precaution he had thought it necessary to use, in order to prevent the introduction of contagion and disease into the house.

No. 18635.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 10 October 1843.

A GENERAL conversation, upon the subject of providing for cases of fever, took place amongst the guardians, at the instance of Thomas M'Evoy Gartlan, Esq., and a new fever hospital having been built very near to the union workhouse, the guardians arranged to give the subject prompt consideration, so soon as the house should have been taken off the hands of the contractor.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

CARRICKMACROSS UNION.

No. 21063.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 November 1843.

THE clerk was ordered to provide immediately, for the use of fever paupers from the workhouse, in the new fever hospital, six iron bedsteads, at the cost of the union, and at an expense not to exceed 15 *s.* each.

No. 21511.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 November 1843.

THE clerk reported to the Board that he could not get any person to make or finish iron bedsteads at the price ordered at the last meeting; and a proposal having been given in by Patrick Hamill, a blacksmith, to make and finish the required number of bedsteads, of the following dimensions, and the same in every respect as the bedsteads in use in the Carrickmacross Bridewell, viz. six feet long by two feet nine inches wide, at 12*s.* per cwt., he was ordered to make one as a pattern, to be exhibited to the Board.

The doctor having reported that the two pauper patients now in the fever hospital were so far convalescent as not to require the further attendance of a nurse-tender, she was accordingly ordered to be discharged, and her wages paid (amount 1 *l.* 8 *s.*) upon the certificate of the doctor.

No. 21511, D/1843.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 27 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Carrickmacross Union on the 21st instant, containing a resolution, that the doctor having reported that the two pauper patients now in the fever hospital were so far convalescent as not to require the further attendance of a nurse-tender, she was accordingly ordered to be discharged, and her wages paid; and in reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that, except for hospitals under the exclusive control of the Board of Guardians, the guardians are not authorized by law in paying salaries to persons employed as nurse-tenders.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Carrickmacross Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore,* Chief Clerk.

No. 22302.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 December 1843.

AN iron bedstead was produced by Edward Hamill, at the price mentioned in his proposal, but he stated he could not finish any more at the price; and he having satisfied the guardians as to the truth of his statement, and upon inspecting the sample bedstead made, they agreed to give him the sum of 16 *s.* 6 *d.* for each additional bedstead furnished by him.

CARRICK-ON-SUIR UNION.

CARRICK-ON-SUIR UNION.

No. 21224, D/43.

EXTRACT from the Guardians' Minutes, 18 November 1843.

MOVED by Patrick Baldwin, and seconded by John Donnell:—"That the medical officer, with Messrs. Wogan and Wilson, guardians, be appointed a committee to confer with the trustees of the fever hospital, to know on what terms they would consent to receive the fever and other contagious patients of this workhouse, and to report the result to a subsequent meeting of this Board."

Carried.

CASHEL UNION.

CASHEL UNION.

No. 22471, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 December 1843.

Resolved, THAT the clerk be directed to transmit to the Poor Law Commissioners a copy of a resolution in reference to the removal of fever patients to the fever hospital, passed on the 7th September last, and to call their attention thereto, with a view of sanctioning or disallowing same.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

CASHEL UNION.

No. 22472, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Cashel, 9 December 1843.

I AM directed by the guardians of this union to transmit to the Poor Law Commissioners a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board, held the 7th September last, in reference to the removal of fever patients to the fever hospital, with a view of their sanctioning or disallowing same.

I have, &c.

A. Moore, Esq. (signed) *Thomas M'Loughlin,*
Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

COPY Resolution accompanying the foregoing.

MOVED by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Coman:—"That all paupers, sick of fever in the house now, or hereafter, be removed to the fever hospital; and that the expense of conveying them, and of maintaining them in hospital, be paid out of the rates of the union; the average cost of fever patients for the last 12 months being used to ascertain the cost of each of such patients."

No. 22472, D/43.

LETTER from Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 13 Dec. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Board of Guardians of the Cashel Union, that all paupers, sick of fever in the house now, or hereafter, be removed to the fever hospital; and that the expense of conveying them, and of maintaining them in the hospital, be paid out of the rates of the union; the average cost of fever patients for the last 12 months being used to ascertain the cost of each of such patients.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to express their approval of the course proposed to be adopted in the above resolution.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, Cashel Union, Cashel. (signed) *A. Moore,* Chief Clerk.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

No. 17406, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 September 1843.

Resolved, THAT on this day week this Board do take into consideration the Rev. Richard Gibbons' letter relative to those afflicted with fever, when it is hoped the Board will be well attended.

No. 10065, D/44.

LETTER referred to in the foregoing Resolution.

Sir, Castlebar, 23 September 1843.

I FIND, by the 16th clause of the Poor Law Amended Act, that provision is made for the relief of destitute fever patients, either by fitting up a house outside for the purpose, or by setting apart a ward of the workhouse infirmary for fever relief. I regret to state that there are at present several poor families afflicted with fever in the town; may I beg leave to call your good notice to this matter, and to hope that some relief may be afforded, under the Act, to those and similar destitute fever patients.

I have, &c.

To the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, Castlebar Union. (signed) *Richard Gibbons,* P. P.

Note.—The clerk states that no further notice has been taken of this matter.

CASTLEBLANEY UNION.

CASTLEBLANEY UNION.

No. 23198.

EXTRACT from Medical Officer's Report, as entered on Guardians' Minutes of 20 December 1843.

THERE were 53 cases of fever, 10 of which were sent to the fever hospital; all returned to the workhouse well. I did not see any advantage to be gained by their isolation during the

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

CASTLEBLANEY UNION.

the acute stage, when they were sent back at a time more favourable to the propagation of contagion. I do not wish by this remark to detract from the kindness or ability by which they were treated by the superintendent of that institution; on the contrary, some of the cases were very bad, and must have required not only assiduous, but also skilful and judicious management. In addition to this, the idiot wards were unoccupied, and I thought it not only unreasonable, but unfair to impose on him considerable labour without any remuneration.

CASTLEDERG UNION.

CASTLEDERG UNION.

No. 17751, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 30 September 1843.

Ordered, THAT the clerk do call a special Board for Friday, the 13th day of October 1843, to take into consideration the propriety of setting apart a portion of the workhouse for a fever hospital.

No. 18863.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 October 1843.

THAT the consideration of appropriating part of the house for fever hospital be postponed.

CASTLEREA UNION.

CASTLEREA UNION.

No. 16486, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians, Castlerea Union.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 Sept. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to state, that having received representations of the distressed condition of many of the poor, amongst whom fever is stated at present to prevail to a serious extent, in a part of the Castlerea Union, the Commissioners feel it their duty to refer to the communications already addressed to the Board of Guardians, and again to call their attention to the necessity of opening the workhouse for the administration of relief, which the prevalence of distress and disease amongst the poor population renders it extremely desirable should be commenced at the earliest possible period.

The workhouse was declared by the Commissioners to be fit for the reception and relief of destitute poor in October last; but 11 months have elapsed without its being opened for relieving the necessities of those for whose relief it was established, although it appears from the minutes of the guardians, that supplies of clothing and bedding were obtained and delivered at the workhouse early in March last. Collectors have also been appointed; and the rates have been in course of collection for some time past; the Commissioners, therefore, are not aware of any circumstances which form sufficient ground for further delaying the administration of relief.

The Commissioners are the more urgent in their wishes in this respect, in consequence of their having had before them a representation, by clergymen, magistrates, medical practitioners, and others, that typhus fever is raging in the village of Ballaghader in to a fearful extent; and that a considerable proportion of the population are suffering from it, almost all of whom are said to be destitute of any assistance, except such as may be obtained from charity, in an impoverished neighbourhood; and some cases are instanced of persons suffering from fever, who are stated to be "in a miserable condition," "lying on the road-side, without shelter," "until huts were hastily thrown up for their reception." So great, indeed, is the destitution stated to be prevailing, and the danger to be apprehended, that an application has been made by influential inhabitants of the neighbourhood, to the Government, for assistance.

The recent Act for the amendment of the Irish Poor Relief Act (6 & 7 Vict. c. 92), specially enables the guardians (s. 16), with the consent of the Commissioners, to provide relief for poor persons affected with fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, in a house hired for the reception and medical treatment of such poor persons, or by appropriating the union workhouse, or a part of it, for that purpose.

The Commissioners consider that, under the circumstances adverted to, the guardians should forthwith appropriate the workhouse for the immediate reception and relief of the poor persons above referred to, and on whose behalf the application has been submitted; persons affected with contagious disease being placed in a portion of the workhouse appropriated to their reception separate from any other inmates who may hereafter be admitted from time to time, so as to prevent the spread of the contagion amongst such inmates if admitted before the subsidence of the disease.

The Commissioners cannot but feel considerable apprehension that much further distress may be caused by the continuance of the deplorable necessity adverted to, and they wish to

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

to point out to the guardians the deep responsibility which they will incur if they further postpone availing themselves of the means placed at their disposal for the relief of the destitute poor in the Castlerea Union.

CASTLEREA UNION.

I am to request that immediately on receipt of this letter you will give notice to all the guardians, convening a special meeting forthwith, in order that the subject may be immediately brought before a full Board.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Castlerea Union.

(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 17310, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 September 1843.

PROPOSED by Patrick O'Connor, esq., and seconded by Dominick Corr, esq.:

Resolved, That we have read a communication from the Poor Law Commissioners stating that many cases of fever exist in the town of Ballaghadereen, and urging the necessity of opening the poorhouse for immediate relief; that we find, on the authority of several of the guardians from that district, that it has chiefly passed, and that no fever cases exist in any of the other districts, and no present necessity for relief.

COLERAINE UNION.

COLERAINE UNION.

No. 22482, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 9 December 1843.

THE Rev. Mr. O'Hara having stated to the Board that in consequence of the very great prevalence of fever in the town of Coleraine at present, and the want of sufficient accommodation in the fever hospital for the reception of the great number of applicants for admission, it became necessary to make some further provision for such applicants;

Resolved, That a house be taken convenient to the fever hospital for the reception and accommodation of fever patients, and that the expense of the said house be chargeable to the establishment account, and that cost of conveyance of patients to the said house, and their maintenance therein, be charged to the electoral divisions in which such patients shall have been resident previous to their admission; also, that the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to sanction this proceeding and the removal of a certain number of beds from the workhouse to the house to be taken for the reception and accommodation of such fever patients.

That the following gentlemen be requested to act as a committee for the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect: Mr. Chas. Knox, Mr. Kyle, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Sharp.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 18 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Coleraine Union on the 9th instant, containing a resolution relative to the providing of fever accommodation in the union.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they fully concur with the general views expressed in the resolution of the guardians on this subject, and they have instructed Mr. Senior to attend the meeting of the Board on the 23d instant, to confer with the guardians as to the details.

* * * * * * * *

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Coleraine Union.

(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 23328.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 December 1843.

THE following letters from the Poor Law Commissioners and others were read by the clerk, and orders made on them respectively, as follows:—

Letter of the 18th instant in reference to a minute of the Board, relative to providing accommodation for fever patients in the union; and the Commissioners state that they fully concur in the general views of the guardians, and have instructed Mr. Senior, the Assistant Commissioner, to attend the meeting, to confer with the guardians as to the details.

The question of accommodation for fever patients postponed till this day week, in consequence of other important matter being before the Board relative to charges brought against certain officers of the workhouse by the Rev. Mr Hughes.

Note,

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

COLERAINE UNION.

Note, by Clerk to the Guardians.—Mr. Senior attended accordingly on 23d December, but there was then no necessity for carrying out the resolution of the Board, fever having become much less prevalent than when the resolution was passed, and the accommodation for the reception of fever patients in the fever hospital of Coleraine being equal to the applications for admission, the matter was no further proceeded with.

DROGHEDA UNION.

DROGHEDA UNION.

No. 17283, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 September 1843.

Notice of Motion by Patrick Boylan, Esq.

I GIVE notice of motion for the next monthly meeting, to provide a fever hospital according to the 16th section of the new Poor Law Act.

No. 17676, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 September 1843.

Mr. BOYLAN's notice of motion, in reference to the establishment of a fever hospital, to be connected with the workhouse, having been read, and also a copy of a letter from Mr. Brodigan, the chairman, addressed to Mr. Gulson, Poor Law Commissioner, on this subject, and his answer to said letter, a lengthened discussion took place, which was terminated by Patrick Boylan, esq. proposing, and H. B. Caddington seconding, the following resolution, which was carried:

That in consequence of the absolute want of a fever hospital in Drogheda, and the danger of receiving fever patients into the poorhouse, we are of opinion that it is most desirable to avail ourselves of the authority of the 16th section of the 6th & 7th Victoria, being the Poor Law Amendment Act, and to appoint a committee, consisting of Messrs. Caddington, P. Boylan, Thomas Brodigan, W. Campbell, H. G. Smith, and P. Mathews, to inquire into the possibility of procuring a house for the above purpose, and report the result of their inquiry to the next monthly meeting, and to inquire into the funds applicable to such an object.

No. 18692, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 October 1843.

MOVED by Thomas Brodigan, esq., seconded by Patrick Boylan, esq., and carried unanimously:

That the clerk do write to the Commissioners, requesting they will supply this Board with any information they may have respecting the cost of erecting and supporting fever hospitals in Ireland, rating the expenditure by the beds they respectively contain; that from such data they may estimate the probable cost of erecting a fever hospital, in connection with this workhouse, which, under ordinary circumstances, will suit the wants of the population of the Drogheda Union.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 18 Oct. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Drogheda Union, on the 12th instant.

* * * * * * * *

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

On the subject of the resolution relative to fever accommodation, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, for the information of the Board of Guardians, two plans and estimates which have been prepared by the architect of the Commissioners, for the erection of fever hospitals connected with workhouses in Ireland.

* * * * * * * *

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Walmisley*,
First Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Drogheda Union.

No. 21948, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 30 November 1843.

NOTICE of motion by H. B. Caddington, esq.:

That, in consequence of the increase of fever in the town and neighbourhood of Drogheda, some further steps to provide accommodation for the sufferers is indispensably necessary; and that the committee make further inquiry, both as to the likelihood of procuring a house, or having an understanding with the trustees of the charitable funds, if they will build one.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

DROGHEDA UNION.

No. 22415.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 December 1843.

MR. CADDINGTON'S notice of motion, in reference to the establishment of a fever hospital, having been read, a long conversation took place on the subject; that a fever hospital was desirable was admitted, but numerous objections being urged very earnestly, Mr. Caddington did not persevere in moving any resolution.

NORTH DUBLIN UNION.

NORTH DUBLIN UNION.

No. 796, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 10 January 1844.

DOCTOR DUNCAN having attended the Board, and the cases of the two children attacked by scarlatina, (and who were found in ward 66, by the visiting committee on Monday last,) having been discussed, it was unanimously resolved, That the Board will at all times be ready to have such patients as may be afflicted with any infectious disorder, removed to one of the hospitals in the neighbourhood; the expenses to be discharged out of the funds of the union; and the Board are induced to adopt this course, upon the sole ground of preventing the spread of contagious illness in this workhouse.

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioners, with a request that they will assist the Board, according to the powers given to the Board under the amended Act, to carry said resolution into effect, and to advise the Board as to the proper amount of payment to be made to managers of the hospitals on this account.

No. 796, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians, accompanying the foregoing Minutes.

Gentlemen, North Dublin Union, 12 January 1844.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to call your attention to the resolutions in the copy of the minutes of the Board of the 10th instant, herewith sent, on the subject of removing patients affected with infectious disorders to the fever hospitals in the neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *J. H. Crean*, Clerk.

No. 796, D/1844.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union, on the 10th instant, containing a resolution relative to the removal of fever patients to one of the hospitals in the neighbourhood.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to express their approval of the resolution, and to state that they will afford every facility in their power for carrying it out, and will sanction such payment as the guardians consider reasonable in those cases for which payment is necessary.

* * * * *

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 2960, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 February 1844.

Ordered, THAT the clerk do write to the governor of the Hardwicke Hospital, to require that patients, when convalescent, and free from infection, may be sent back here, to be discharged or detained, if their families be resident in the workhouse.

No. 3585.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 February 1844.

Read, LETTER from governor of the house of industry, on the subject of the admission of fever patients to the Hardwicke Fever Hospital from the workhouse.

Ordered, That a copy of this letter, and a copy of a letter to which it is an answer, be forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners, and their directions requested.

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NORTH DUBLIN UNION.

No. 3586, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians to the Commissioners, in pursuance of the foregoing Minute.

Gentlemen, North Dublin Union, 16 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to transmit you the accompanying copies of correspondence between the Board and the governor of the house of industry, on the subject of the admission and discharge to and from the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, of paupers not finally discharged from the workhouse, and to request your directions in the case. I believe all that is required of the Board is, to pass a resolution in accordance with the 15th section of the amended Act, that they will pay for maintenance in such cases.

I have, &c.

The Poor Law Commissioners, &c. &c. (signed) *J. H. Crean*, Clerk.

Enclosures in foregoing Letter.

North Dublin Union, North Brunswick-street,

Sir, 7 February 1844.

I AM directed by the guardians to request that you will cause any paupers who may be removed from the workhouse to the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, to be sent back to the workhouse, when convalescent and free from infection, in order that they may either be discharged in the usual way, or detained if they have a family in the house, which they are legally liable to maintain.

I am, &c.

To Denis Phelan, Esq., &c. &c. &c. (signed) *J. H. Crean.*

Sir, House of Industry, 8 February 1844.

IN reference to your letter of the 7th, communicating the wish of the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union, that "any paupers who may be removed from the workhouse to the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, be sent back to the workhouse when convalescent, and when free from infection;" I request that you will inform the Board that I shall take particular care to do so, when the circumstances of the case enable me.

If such patients are received into the Hardwicke Hospital, under the 15th clause of the amended Poor Relief Act of last session, I will be authorized to return them to the workhouse on their being discharged by the physicians; but a reference to that clause will show that an arrangement must previously have been made between the Board of Guardians and the authorities of the house of industry, which arrangement, I believe, has not yet been entered into; I am informed that hitherto such patients have been admitted as ordinary pauper cases. It appears to me that when a person so admitted into the Hardwicke Hospital is discharged therefrom, I have no authority to send him back to the workhouse unless he chooses to go there; but if any arrangement be made by which that authority can be exercised, the wishes of your Board shall be complied with.

I am, &c.

To Mr. Crean, (signed) *Denis Phelan.*
Clerk North Dublin Board of Guardians.

No. 3586.

LETTER to the Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 Feb. 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, enclosing copies of correspondence between the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union and the governor of the house of industry, on the subject of the admission to and discharge from the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, of paupers not finally discharged from the workhouse, and requesting instructions.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that in those cases in which the governor of the hospital has no legal right to send the patient back to the workhouse (the man refusing to return to the workhouse, of course), the governor will be able, prior to the discharge of the man from the hospital, to inform the master of the workhouse that the man is about to be discharged, and the master of the workhouse can then take care to have the wife and family at the entrance of the building, so as to ensure that if the man goes his wife and family must also leave the workhouse.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the North Dublin Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 3586, D/1844.

NORTH DUBLIN UNION.

LETTER to the Governor of the House of Industry thereon.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 28 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward for your information the enclosed copy of a letter which they have received from the clerk to the guardians of the North Dublin Union, on the subject of the admission to and discharge from the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, of paupers not finally discharged from the workhouse, together with a copy of a letter addressed to the Board of Guardians in reply.

D. Phelan, Esq. I have, &c.
Governor of the House of Industry. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 4766, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 February 1844.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners on the subject of the discharge of paupers from the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, who may be sent there from the workhouse.

Ordered, That a copy be sent to the master, who has received directions from the Board to attend strictly to the instructions therein contained.

DUNDALK UNION.

DUNDALK UNION.

No. 18891, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 October 1843.

NOTICE of Motion.—I hereby give notice, that on the 27th instant I shall bring before the Board the question of providing accommodation for persons affected with fever or other contagious diseases, in view to taking the opinion of the guardians as to the expediency of erecting a building near to the south-western extremity of the workhouse ground for the reception of such persons.

(signed) *Donald M'Neill.*

No. 19834.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 27 October 1843.

MOVED by Donald M'Neill, Esq., in pursuance of notice given on the 13th instant, and seconded by Benjamin Thompson, Esq.

Resolved, That a small building shall be erected near the south-western extremity of the workhouse ground, equal to the accommodation of applicants, who, suffering from fever or other infectious or contagious diseases, may seek relief from the union; and that our clerk do address a letter to the Poor Law Commissioners, requesting they will recommend to the Board the proper course to be pursued for raising the funds necessary for the erection of such buildings, and the form and dimensions they consider it would be advisable to adopt.

No. 19839, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Dundalk, 29 October 1843.

IN pursuance of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Dundalk Union on Friday the 27th instant, I have to request that you will recommend to the Board of Guardians the proper course to be pursued for raising the funds necessary for the erection of a small building near the south-western extremity of the workhouse grounds, equal to the accommodation of applicants, who, suffering from fever or other infections or contagious diseases, may seek relief from the union; and I have further to request that you will inform the Board as to the form and dimensions you consider it would be advisable to adopt.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Ryan*,
To the Poor Law Commissioners. Clerk of the Union.

No. 19839, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 2 Nov. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, requesting advice as to the proper course to be pursued for raising the funds necessary for the erection of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the

nnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

DUNDALK UNION.

Dundalk Union; and I am to state that, if the guardians desire it, the Commissioners will forward to them a plan of a small building suitable for the intended purpose, and, if approved, they will supply all the specifications and working drawings to enable the Board of Guardians to contract for the work.

The cost of a suitable building will be from 300 *l.* to 350 *l.*, and the money for this special purpose may be borrowed by the guardians, under the 89th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, of the treasurer, or any other person willing to lend it, and may be secured by a deed of charge on the rates, subject to such interest as may be agreed upon, and to be repaid in three or five years, by annual instalments.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Dundalk Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 20304.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 3 November 1843.

A LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 2d November 1843, No. 19539, D/43, relative to the erection of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse, having been read,

Ordered, That the clerk do write to the Poor Law Commissioners, requesting them to send a plan for the intended fever hospital, together with specifications and working drawings, they having offered to do so in their letter of the 2d instant.

No. 20405, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Dundalk, 6 November 1843.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of the Dundalk Union to request that the Poor Law Commissioners will send them a plan of the fever hospital intended to be built in connexion with the Dundalk Union Workhouse, and also the specifications and working drawings; the Poor Law Commissioners having offered to do so in their letter of the 2d instant, No. 19539, D/43.

By order of the Board,

Arthur Moore, Esq.
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

(signed) *Wm. Ryan*,
Clerk of the Union.

No. 20405, D/1843.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
9 November 1843.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, requesting them to send the Board of Guardians a plan for a fever hospital to be built in connexion with the workhouse of the Dundalk Union, together with specifications and working drawings; and in reference thereto I am directed to forward to you, to be laid before the Board of Guardians, three plans which have been prepared for the purpose; upon these plans being returned, with an intimation as to which of the three the guardians propose to adopt, the Commissioners will cause the necessary specifications and working drawings to be forthwith prepared. The cost, according to plan No. 1, will be from 550 *l.* to 600 *l.*; according to plan No. 2, about 460 *l.*, and according to plan No. 3, about 310 *l.*, including fittings, but exclusive of furniture in each case.

See copies of Plans at the end of this Return.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Dundalk Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

No. 21625.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 24 November 1843.

MOVED by Major M'Neill, and seconded by Mr. Byrne:

Resolved, That plan No. 2, as furnished by the Poor Law Commissioners for a fever hospital for the union, be adopted.

Moved by Major M'Neill, and seconded by Mr. Byrne:

Resolved, That the clerk do advertise in the usual manner for tenders to erect by contract a fever hospital for the union, according to plan and specification No. 2, as above adopted.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 21625, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians, accompanying the foregoing Resolution.

Sir, Dundalk Union, Dundalk, 26 Nov. 1843.

WITH this you have minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Dundalk Union on Friday, the 24th instant.

I have to direct your attention to a resolution on the minutes, which shows that the plan, No. 2, has been adopted by the Board of Guardians for the fever hospital intended to be built in connexion with the Dundalk workhouse.

The three plans referred to in your letter of the 9th instant, No. 20405, D/43, will be forwarded by the mid-day mail on to-morrow.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Ryan,*
Clerk of the Union.

To Arthur Moore, Esq.
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

No. 407, D/44.

REPORT from the Architect, accompanying the Plans required.

Architect's Office, Poor Law Commission,
Dublin, 4 January 1844.

Gentlemen,

ACCOMPANYING I beg to submit the plans prepared for the fever hospital for the Dundalk Union, on which is a specification of the scantlings of the timbers and other constructive details. I beg to recommend their being now sent to the Board of Guardians, in order that they may obtain tenders for the execution of the work.

Before the work can be commenced, I conceive it is desirable that the guardians should consider and determine some of the details, viz. what kind of floors are to be used, the mode of payment for the work, and the superintendence of the building in its erection, which will necessarily determine the architect who is to be entrusted with the direction of the building and be responsible for its proper completion; and he will be the proper and only person who can satisfactorily prepare the specification for embodying the above particulars and for binding the contractor to the proper execution and completion of the undertaking.

I therefore beg to recommend that the Board of Guardians should determine these particulars, and that to the architect they may select should be left the preparing the specification and other documents, and the direction of the building.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Wilkinson.*

To the Poor Law Commissioners.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 407, D/1844.

LETTER to the Guardians, forwarding the Plans, and Copy of the Architect's Report.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 11 Jan. 1844.

REFERRING to your letter of the 26th ultimo, relative to the providing of fever accommodation in connexion with the workhouse of the Dundalk Union, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a report which they have received from the architect thereon, together with the plans which accompanied it.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the
Dundalk Union.

No. 499.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 January 1844.

THE medical officer having reported that there were seven cases of fever in the probationary wards, and not separated from the other patients,

Resolved, That the two probationary wards be allotted to the reception of fever patients without delay.

No. 5002.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 1 March 1844.

LETTERS from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 11 January 1844, and from the architect's office, dated 4 January 1844, with the plans for a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse, the consideration of which was postponed until Major M'Neill was present, were presented by the clerk, and ordered to be held over for further consideration, owing to the state of the funds of the union.

rinted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

DUNGANNON UNION.

DUNGANNON UNION.

No. 6016, D/44.

LETTER from Mr. *Senior*, Assistant Commissioner, requesting Plans for the use of the Dungannon Union.

Gentlemen, Coleraine, 16 March 1844.

I HAVE to request that you will forward to me for the use of the Dungannon union, plans and specifications for fever hospital, precisely similar to those adopted at Lurgan, as early as possible, and I should wish the number of beds in each ward to be marked, together with the estimate.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Edward Senior*,
Assistant Commissioner.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 27 March 1844.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

WITH reference to your letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you, in compliance with your request, the enclosed plans for a fever hospital, in connexion with the workhouse of the Dungannon Union.

The plans now enclosed are plans of the arrangement only of the building, and the one selected will require to have some detail constructive drawings and a specification prepared, before a contract for the building can satisfactorily be obtained.

Before these are prepared, the guardians should determine the position for the building, and any local particulars with regard to its construction which may appear to them necessary to be noticed in the specification.

Under the provisions of the Act, it will be necessary for the Commissioners to be contracting parties, but they will leave to the guardians the employment of a surveyor to prepare the constructive drawings and specifications, also the obtaining of tenders and superintendence of the building; or they will, if the guardians prefer it, prepare these documents and superintend the building through their own architect; but in either case, making the contract themselves with an approved contractor whom the guardians may recommend.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

E. Senior, Esq. Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Note.—The plans were laid before the Board of Guardians, who have resolved to add fever wards accordingly.

DUNSHAUGHLIN UNION.

DUNSHAUGHLIN UNION.

No. 16804, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 September 1843.

THE medical officer reported two bad cases of fever in the house. It was ordered that a car be provided, and have them sent to the Whitworth Hospital; and that the clerk write to the governors, to know upon what terms that hospital will receive fever cases from this union under the power vested in Boards of Guardians by the Poor Law Amendment Act.

No. 18818, D/43.

LETTER from the Governor of the House of Industry to the Commissioners.

Gentlemen, House of Industry, Dublin, 15 Sept. 1843.

I TRANSMIT herewith for your consideration a copy of a letter received by me yesterday from the clerk to the Poor Law Guardians of the Dunshaughlin Union, respecting the proposed admission of patients therefrom into the hospital of this institution, and I would beg to have your instructions as to the reply which should be made thereto.

In reference to the application at foot thereof, made by the medical officer of the union for the admission of two patients into the hospital, I beg to observe, that these persons having been presented to the resident clinical clerk of the hospital as candidates for admission into the fever hospital, they were in the ordinary course of business admitted thereto by him, but without his being aware of their having been sent from the Dunshaughlin workhouse.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Alley*, Governor.

The Poor Law Commissioners.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Enclosure in foregoing.

Gentlemen, Dunshaughlin Poor Law Union, Dunshaughlin, 12 Sept. 1843.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians of the above union to request that you inform them at your earliest convenience on what terms you would admit fever patients from their workhouse, the cost of which will be paid out of the rate, sections 15 and 16 Poor Law Amendment Act.

I have, &c.

The Governors of the Whitworth Fever Hospital. (signed) *Robert Clinch*, Clerk of the Union.

To the Resident Medical Attendant of the Whitworth Fever Hospital.

Sir,

I beg leave to recommend Jane Gargan and Michael Neill as fit cases for taking into the ospital in conformity with the above arrangement.

Yours, &c.

(signed) *L. O'Rielly*, Medical Officer, D. U.

EDENDERRY UNION.

No. 16655, D/43.

Extracts from Guardians' Minutes, 9 September 1843.

Resolved, That tenders be received to ascertain the cost of adapting a portion of the idiot wards in the workhouse to a fever ward, for the use of the union at large. The part to be pointed out by the physician.

Letter from the Commissioners in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 Sept. 1843.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Edenderry Union, on the 9th instant, containing a resolution proposing to receive tenders to ascertain the cost of adapting a portion of the idiot wards in the workhouse to a fever ward.

In reference to this resolution, I am directed to request the attention of the Board to section 16 of the 6 & 7 Vict. cap. 92, from which they will perceive that the alteration proposed could not legally be made without the previous consent of the Commissioners; and I am to state, that the Commissioners have the subject under consideration; but being doubtful whether any part of the workhouse buildings could, with safety to the inmates generally, be converted into a fever ward, they are not prepared, until the matter shall have been duly considered, to give their sanction to such an arrangement as that proposed by the guardians for the accommodation of fever patients; though the Commissioners hope to be able, without delay, to indicate some plan which will meet the concurrence of the Board of Guardians for the object desired.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Edenderry Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 17097.

Extracts from Guardians' Minutes, 16 September 1843.

Resolved, That the Guardians did advertise for tenders for removing certain portions of the idiot wards, for the purpose of converting them into fever wards, previous to applying to the Commissioners for their approbation: That now, having ascertained the expense to be very trifling, and that according to the opinion of the medical officer, there would not be any danger of contagion, the Guardians therefore forward their plan and estimate, and submit to the consideration of the Commissioners the expediency of sanctioning the proposed arrangement, as by so doing two fever wards, having no direct communication with the main building, would be gained at a trifling expense, each capable of containing from 14 to 16 beds, having together a capacity of 11,000 cubic feet, and calculated to afford wholesome respiration to 45 persons, more, probably, than will ever be in them at any one time.

I give notice that I shall propose the above resolution on next board day.

16 Sept. 1843. (signed) *Patrick Lacy.*

Note.—Mr. Lacy withdrew the above notice on the 23d Sept. 1843.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

EDENDERRY UNION.

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to call a full meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday next, to take into consideration the propriety of converting the idiot wards into fever wards for the union at large.

Proposed by John Pim; seconded by John Watson.—Passed, L. L. Dames.

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to write to the Commissioners to state, that the Board having received tenders for the necessary alterations of the idiot wards into a fever hospital for the union, now find that the expense of all such alterations would be about 3*l.* for the accommodation of about 44 patients, and the Guardians feel that such an alteration would be not only desirable, but also perfectly safe and convenient.

Proposed by Mr. P. Lacy; seconded by John Pim.—Passed.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 26 Sept. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Edenderry Union on the 16th instant, and with reference to the resolution expressive of the guardians' opinion as regards the propriety of altering the idiot wards in the workhouse, for the accommodation of poor persons labouring under fever, the Commissioners have directed me to state, that the responsibility of sanctioning any alterations in workhouses for the purpose of receiving persons afflicted with fever, having been imposed upon them by the 16th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. cap. 92, they have given the matter the consideration due to its importance, and have been advised that it would be inconsistent with the safety of the other inmates of the workhouse to permit any part of the present building to be appropriated for the reception of fever patients.

A due regard for the health of the inmates of the workhouse generally must therefore prevent the Commissioners from giving their sanction to the alteration proposed to be made in the workhouse of the Edenderry Union; but I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners will be glad to lend every assistance in their power in providing other accommodation for the purpose required near the workhouse, in such manner as the guardians may deem most desirable.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, Edenderry Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

ENNISTYMON UNION.

ENNISTYMON UNION.

No. 3141.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, of 9 February 1844.

MR. MACNAMARA gives notice that he will, on this day week, move an application to the Poor Law Commissioners, to have a portion of this workhouse allocated to a fever hospital.

No. 3647.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 16 February 1844.

Proposed by John Macnamara, seconded by Thomas Cahill:

Resolved, That a committee of three members of our Board, namely, Mr. Morony, Mr. Macnamara, Mr. O'Dwyer, and the two medical gentlemen, attend on this day four weeks for the purpose of considering what portion of the house could be made available for the use of a fever hospital, and the report be laid before the Board this day month.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing Resolution.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 21 February 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Ennistymon Union, on the 16th instant, containing a resolution relative to the proposed appropriation of a portion of the workhouse for the purpose of a fever hospital.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with safety, and the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance; but they are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against the workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital.

The Commissioners, however, are quite alive to the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions in which no fever accommodation is at present available.

With

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ENNISTYMON UNION.

With this view, the Commissioners have, in other unions similarly circumstanced, sanctioned the erection of an out-ward upon the workhouse site, at such distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious disease. If the guardians consider it desirable to erect an out-ward for this purpose, under sections 35 and 36 of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with them in carrying out their wishes in the manner which the Board of Guardians may consider most for their own interests.

The Commissioners could furnish three sets of plans which have been supplied to and adopted by other Boards; and if one of them were selected, the Commissioners would furnish the necessary specifications and working drawings, free of cost, and the guardians could then advertise for tenders for the execution of the work under their own control and supervision.

It is obvious, that under this arrangement, the present staff of officers (with some addition to the salary of the medical attendant) would be sufficient for the management and supervision of the department, with the addition of a good responsible paid nurse. The account of provisions supplied to the fever patients would all pass through the regular workhouse books; and although under this arrangement parts of families might be admitted when in fever, and the strict rules applicable to the admission of inmates to other parts of the workhouse might be dispensed with, as regards this class of patients, no inconvenience would practically arise therefrom, inasmuch as the fever hospital would be a distinct building apart from that to which the Commissioners feel it necessary for the public interest to enforce the strict rules laid down for the guidance of all Boards of Guardians regarding admission for general relief.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of Ennistymon Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 4348.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 February 1844.

Proposed by Michael Considine, seconded by Michael Finucane:
Resolved, That our clerk does procure the plans and specifications of the fever hospital referred to in the Commissioners' letter of the 21st February 1844.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 5 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Ennistymon Union, on the 23d ultimo, containing a resolution directing the clerk to apply for the plans and specifications for a fever hospital, referred to in the Commissioners' letter of the 21st ultimo.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you three plans, from which the guardians can select one for adoption: the probable cost is indicated on each plan. The plans now sent are plans of the arrangement only of the building, and the one selected will require to have some detail constructive drawings and a specification prepared, before a contract for the building can satisfactorily be obtained. Before these are prepared, the guardians should determine the position for the building, and any local particulars with regard to its construction which may appear to them necessary to be noticed in the specification.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

Under the provisions of the Act, it will be necessary for the Commissioners to be contracting parties, but they will leave to the guardians the employment of a surveyor, to prepare the constructive drawings and specification; also the obtaining of tenders and superintendence of the building; or they will, if the guardians prefer it, prepare these documents and superintend the building through their own architect; but in either case, making the contract themselves with an approved contractor whom the guardians may recommend.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Ennistymon Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 5637.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 8 March 1844.

THE plans of the fever hospital were laid before the Board. No. 3 adopted.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Ennistymon Union.

No. 6197.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 15 March 1844.

Mr. O'Gorman gives notice that on this day fortnight the subject of the fever hospital shall be considered, and the clerk be directed to give notice to every member of this Board of such intention.

No. 7448.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 29 March 1844.

Proposed by Mr. Morony, seconded by Mr. Macnamara, That Mr. O'Gorman's notice of motion be discharged. That we deem the erection of a fever hospital, detached from the workhouse of this union, but in connexion with it, a necessary and useful measure, and that the sum of 250 *l.*, now in the hands of the Commissioners, be applied to that purpose; and that our clerk does write to Mr. John Herbert, architect, to attend the meeting of the next Board, to receive instructions for plan, and estimate for the same.

Moved as an amendment by Michael Macnamara, seconded by Peter J. Owen, That inasmuch as a sum of 250 *l.* remains in the hands of the Commissioners, for the purpose of building, that the Board are of opinion that the lunatic wards which are unoccupied, can be easily made available as an hospital for fever patients, without any risk of contagion to the inmates or visitors of the house. We are also of opinion that those divisions of the union which are remote from the workhouse, and from which patients could not with safety be conveyed, ought not to be made subject to any portion of rate for the building and support of such hospital. Upon a poll there appeared for the amendment 2, against it 11. The original motion was carried by a majority of nine.

GOREY UNION.

Gorey Union.

No. 3365, D/44.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 10 February 1844.

Doctor reported by letter to the chairman, Earl Courtown, that Eliza Kelly, aged 40, admitted into the workhouse on Saturday the 3d instant, was found to be labouring under typhus fever. Directed her to be removed immediately into the fever hospital, where she now is; her three children continue free from disease.

Resolved, That Lieut.-colonel Owen, Mr. Peelon, and Mr. John Bosbidge be a committee to confer with the trustees of the fever hospital, to know on what terms and at what rate of expense, yearly or daily, they will receive into the hospital the fever patients of this establishment, &c.

Letter from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing Resolution.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 Feb. 1844.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Gorey Union, on the 10th instant, containing a resolution to appoint a committee to confer with the trustees of the fever hospital, to know on what terms and at what rate of expense, yearly or daily, they will receive into the hospital the fever patients of the workhouse.

In reference to this resolution the Commissioners have directed me to state, that they would prefer a payment per head per week for the fever patients; otherwise they apprehend there may be difficulty in charging the expense of maintenance properly.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Gorey Union.

No. 3886.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 17 February 1844.

Report of the Committee appointed to confer with the trustees of the fever hospital. It appears, "Upon an average of the last four years of patients received and discharged from the Gorey Fever Hospital, as taken from the books of that establishment, the cost of each patient has been at the rate of 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per week."

This charge is recommended and adopted by the Board for all patients received into the fever hospital from the workhouse, and to which the trustees of the fever hospital have agreed.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Letter to the Board of Guardians with reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 23 Feb. 1844.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Gorey Union on the 17th inst., and have directed me to state that they approve of the proposed rate of payment to the fever hospital for patients from the workhouse; viz. 7*s.* 6*d.* per week.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Gorey Union.

GRANARD UNION.

No. 17506, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 25 September 1843.

Resolved, That the clerk do write to the Poor Law Commissioners, requesting information as to the mode of bringing into operation that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act which relates to fever hospitals.

No. 17487.

Letter from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Clerk's Office, Granard, 26 Sept. 1843.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians of the above union to request your information as to the mode of bringing into operation that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act which relates to fever hospitals.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Bernard McManus*,
Clerk of the Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

No. 17487, D/43.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 30 Sept. 1843.

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, requesting information as to the mode of bringing into operation that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act which relates to fever hospitals.

The Commissioners presume that your inquiry relates only to the 16th section of the Act, and in reference thereto I am directed to state, that much will depend upon local circumstances; as for instance, the existence of a fever hospital in the district, or the want of one; and these circumstances should be carefully considered before making any arrangements.

Generally, however, the Commissioners are now prepared to sanction the providing of all necessary accommodation for persons ill of fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, who, when ill, are unable to pay and provide for the medical assistance and accommodation requisite under such circumstances. A large class of persons may be unable to provide themselves with medical assistance and the necessary accommodation when ill (of such dangerous disease), who are able to provide for themselves, or in other words, who are not destitute, when well; for this class the fever accommodation is intended. The guardians would not be justified in finding medical assistance or other accommodation for those who are able to pay for, or otherwise provide it for themselves; but for all poor persons in the union who cannot provide it for themselves, it is clearly the intention of the Legislature to have it provided by the guardians.

Every union, therefore, will ultimately have its own fever hospital for its own use (except such as have a fever hospital at hand); and if the matter is properly and economically managed, it is not anticipated that much, if any, ultimate extra expense upon the rates will be caused by the arrangement; because it is self-evident that vast numbers are rendered destitute by the fatal effects of fever, and other dangerous contagious disease, who, if fever patients are properly provided for, and the disease thus kept from spreading, would not be rendered destitute. If a man dies of fever, his family often becomes destitute; if a widow dies of fever, the children become destitute.

The expense will, however, depend upon proper arrangement; and the ultimate arrangements of the guardians, and the cost of such arrangements, will very much depend upon the mode in which they commence. It is clear that no part of the existing workhouses can safely be permitted to be converted into fever wards; the Commissioners are advised that a due regard to the health of the inmates must prevent them from sanctioning any alteration of the present buildings for the purpose, and all will agree that in a matter of so much importance it is necessary to act upon safe principle.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

GRANARD UNION.

If the fever wards are erected at a little distance from the workhouse, but upon the workhouse site, it is certain that this part of the establishment might be managed by the officers of the workhouse, with the assistance of course of a regular, good, paid, responsible nurse.

It is also certain that in this case a proper check could be had over the provisions and supplies requisite in such an establishment; but if a house is hired outside, other paid officers must be appointed for its management and control.

A plain building, two stories high, with windows on each side for ventilation, might be erected at little cost, and in the end it will be far more economical and satisfactory than any other course which can be adopted.

Of course in the admission of fever patients, the strict rules which govern admission into the workhouse would not be enforced, or indeed be applicable or necessary. Wives without husbands, children without parents, and in fact all who are ill of fever, and unable to provide or be provided for otherwise, may be received when in fever.

Before, however, the guardians come to any determination as to the course which they may wish to adopt, they would do well to take an opportunity of conferring with the Assistant Commissioner on the subject.

I am, &c,

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Granard Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 18107.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 2 October 1843.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners in answer to the guardians' application, requesting to be informed how that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act as relates to fever hospitals might be carried into operation, and conveying their opinion on the subject; also wishing the guardians to consult with the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner on the matter.

Ordered, That the subject above alluded to stand over until the attendance of the Assistant Commissioner.

Note.—Mr. Gilbert, Assistant Commissioner, attended the Board of Guardians on the 11th October, and several times subsequently; but nothing appears to have been done in reference to the above.

KILKEEL UNION.

KILKEEL UNION.

No. 4587, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Workhouse, Kilkeel, 29 February 1844.

I HAVE been directed by the Board of Guardians of the Kilkeel Union to request that you would furnish them with plans of a fever hospital suitable for this union, to contain about 25 beds, and to state the probable cost thereof.

On reference to the minutes of the meeting of the Board yesterday, you will perceive the necessity of providing; the fever hospital will be brought forward on the 13th March, and you will please forward the plans before that time.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *John Boyd*, Clerk.

No. 4588.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 February 1844.

THE following notice of motion was given.

I beg leave to give notice that I will on Wednesday the 13th March next bring under the notice of the Board the necessity of providing a fever hospital for this union.

(signed) *J. S. Moore.*

Resolved, That Mr. Gilbert, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, be requested to attend the meeting of the Board on the 13th March.

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for plans of a fever hospital suitable for this union, and of the estimated cost.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 11 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Kilkeel Union, on the 28th ultimo, containing a resolution directing the clerk to apply for the plans of a fever hospital suitable for the Kilkeel Union, and the estimated cost.

In

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

KILKEEN UNION.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you three plans*, from which the guardians can select one for adoption. The probable cost is indicated on each plan. The plans now sent are plans of the arrangement only of the building, and the one selected will require to have some detail constructive drawings, and a specification prepared, before a contract for the building can satisfactorily be obtained. Before these are prepared the guardians should determine the position for the building, and any local particulars with regard to its construction which may appear to them necessary to be noticed in the specification.

* *See* copies of Plans at end of this Return.

Under the provisions of the Act it will be necessary for the Commissioners to be contracting parties, but they will leave to the guardians the employment of a surveyor to prepare the constructive drawings and specifications, also the obtaining of tenders and superintendence of the building; or they will, if the guardians prefer it, prepare these documents and superintend the building through their own architect; but in either case, making the contract themselves with an approved contractor whom the guardians may recommend.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Kilkeel Union.

No. 5871.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 March 1844.

ON Mr. Moore's motion coming before the Board to provide a fever hospital for this union,

Doctors M'Ilwaine and Reid were examined by the Board and Mr. Gilbert to prove the necessity there exists for providing a fever hospital.

The plans furnished by the Poor Law Commissioners being examined by the Board, it was resolved, That the Board consider that the estimated cost of providing a fever hospital is too large for this union, and as there is too much accommodation in the hospital attached to the workhouse, for the number of paupers in the workhouse, that the clerk be directed to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners to allow the two wings of the present hospital to be taken for fever patients, and to add another story thereto, the entrance to be from the back of the buildings, and the communication with the remainder of the hospital to be stopped.

Mr. Gilbert stated, that the Poor Law Commissioners had an objection to allowing any part of the hospitals attached to be used for fever hospitals, but the Board considered, that under the peculiar circumstances of this union being small, and the number of paupers in the workhouse being few, they would make an exception in this case.

No. 5937.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen,

Workhouse, Kilkeel, 15 March 1844.

I HAVE been directed by the Board of Guardians of the Kilkeel Union to state to you, that on considering the subject of providing a fever hospital for this Union, and on examining the plans thereof forwarded by you, and the estimated cost, at their meeting on the 13th instant, they were of opinion that the amount required would be too large for this union, and they have directed me to apply to you to request your sanction to appropriating a portion of the hospital attached to the workhouse for the reception of fever patients.

The proposition of the Board of Guardians is to take the two wings of the present hospital (No. 1, male and female wards) for the treatment of fever patients, to add a story thereto, to close the door which communicates with the remainder, and to make the entrances from the rear of the building; by this means no communication would exist between it and any other part of the house, and they consider that the remaining part of the hospital would provide sufficient accommodation for the number of patients belonging to the workhouse labouring under other diseases.

I have also to state that the medical officer is of opinion that there would be no danger of contagion being communicated to any inmates of the workhouse by the proposed arrangement.

I beg also to mention that Mr. Gilbert stated to the Board of Guardians that you had objections against allowing any part of hospitals attached to workhouses to be used for the treatment of fever patients; but they were of opinion, that on your taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances of the Union being small, and the number of paupers in the workhouse few, you would consider the present case an exception.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Boyd,*
Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

KILKEEN UNION.

No. 5871, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Kilkeel Union on the 13th instant, containing a resolution relative to the proposed appropriation of a portion of the workhouse of the Kilkeel Union for the purpose of a fever hospital.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with safety, and the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance.

The commissioners, however, are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against the workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital.

The Commissioners fully admit that the circumstances of the Kilkeel Union are peculiar, and they would gladly accede to the wishes of the guardians, if they felt it safe so to do; but the Commissioners enclose an extract from a report which they have received from an eminent medical officer on the subject, and they feel convinced that the guardians of the Kilkeel Union will concur with the Commissioners in the opinion that they would not be justified in sanctioning any arrangement which involves the risk of life.

The Commissioners, however, are quite alive to the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions, in which (as at Kilkeel) no fever accommodation is at present available.

With this view, the Commissioners have, in other unions similarly circumstanced, sanctioned the erection of an out ward upon the workhouse site, at such distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious diseases, and the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with the guardians in carrying out their wishes by erecting an out ward upon the workhouse site, according to one of the plans already transmitted to them.

The Commissioners would furnish the necessary specification, and working drawings, free of cost, if required; and the guardians could then advertise for tenders for the execution of the work under their own control and supervision, and would probably borrow the money to be paid off by three or five yearly instalments.

It is obvious that under this arrangement the present staff of officers (with some addition to the salary of the medical attendant) would be sufficient for the management and supervision of the department, with the addition of a good responsible paid nurse. The account of provisions supplied to the fever patients would all pass through the regular workhouse books, and although under this arrangement parts of families might be admitted when in fever, and that the strict rules applicable to the admission of inmates to other parts of the workhouse might be dispensed with as regards this class of patients, no inconvenience would practically arise therefrom, inasmuch as the fever hospital would be a distinct building, apart from that to which the Commissioners feel it necessary, for the public interest, to enforce the strict rules laid down for the guidance of all Boards of Guardians, regarding admission for general relief.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Kilkeel Union.

ENCLOSURE in the above Letter.

THE defective nature of my suggestions may in some measure be accounted for, by a consideration of the innumerable obstacles to the attainment of a perfect system of accommodation for fever patients in the workhouse under existing circumstances, and to the preservation of the healthy inmates from the consequences of infectious disease.

Under the arrangements contemplated, it may be possible to separate those labouring under fever from those affected with other complaints, but it will be quite impossible to prevent infection extending from the diseased to the healthy inmates of the house.

So long as fever is in the house, no matter what part of it, so long no inmate of the house can feel perfect immunity from disease. Fever cannot be circumscribed, or its influence limited by a stone wall; it may be retarded or accelerated, according to a variety of concomitant causes; the susceptibility of some persons to febrile disease, or their power of resisting it; atmospherical vicissitudes, or epidemical constitutions of the air may conspire in doing so; but so long as you have one case in the house, you cannot calculate upon what part of the house, however remote, the second may occur in. This opinion may be verified by a reference to facts known to many members of this Board.

From which it follows of a consequence, that whenever fever prevails to any extent without doors, we are sure to have it within; and when once there, it cannot be limited to this or that division of the building.

Note.—The Guardians subsequently consented to add fever wards as suggested.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

KILRUSH UNION.

No. 23263, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 20 December 1843.

A CHECK for 2 *l.* 7 *s.* 11 *d.* was drawn in favour of the treasurer of the fever hospital, cost of five fever patients removed thereto from the workhouse, which sum is placed to the credit of the treasurer, and debited as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Kilmurry electoral division - - - - - -	-	4	1½
Union at large (including cost of coffin) 4 *s.* - - -	2	3	10

No. 4135, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 February 1844.

Ordered, THAT the sum of 18 *s.* 7½ *d.* be paid to the treasurer of the fever hospital, the cost of two paupers sent therefrom to the workhouse, and that the same be charged to the Kilrush and Kildysart electoral divisions.

LARNE UNION.

No. 1316, D/44.

EXTRACTS from Guardians' Minutes, 17 January 1844.

READ letter from Edward Senior, Esq., dated 15 January 1844, stating that he would attend at the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 7th day of February next.

Ordered, That the clerk do give notice to each guardian, that on that day will be taken into consideration the propriety of establishing a fever hospital in connexion with the union workhouse.

No. 2810, D/44.

REPORT from Mr. *Senior*, Assistant Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Larne, 7 February 1844.

I ENCLOSE a resolution this day adopted by the Board of Guardians of the Larne Union, and I have to request that the Commissioners will forward to the Board of Guardians, with as little delay as possible, the necessary plans and specifications. I am aware that there are objections to furnish specifications, but the adoption of the measure depends on it, and I should apprehend that the Lurgan specifications are applicable.

The plans should be on the most economical scale, but capable of enlargement.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Senior.*

The Poor Law Commissioners.

RESOLUTION accompanying the foregoing Report.

PROPOSED by S. Darcus, Esq., and seconded by Geo. Whittle, Esq., That a fever hospital be built on the workhouse grounds for the reception of any of the inmates of the house, or such poor persons as may be afflicted with fever, capable of containing 40 beds. Tenders to be received on the 6th March next.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 9 Feb. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have received from their Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Senior, a communication, in which he requests that plans and specifications for the erection of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the Larne Union may be forwarded to the Board of Guardians, and the Commissioners have accordingly directed their architect to prepare and send the requisite specifications with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

The Clerk to the Guardians,
Larne Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LARNE UNION.

FURTHER LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 Feb. 1844.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed plan and outline specification for the erection of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the Larne Union, together with a copy of a memorandum made by the architect, for the guidance and assistance of the Board of Guardians.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, Larne Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing Letter.

THE plans and general outline specification prepared for the Larne Fever Hospital have been prepared as fully as practicable.

It will be necessary for the guardians to fix the position of the building, and the level of the floor, and whatever drainage may be necessary in the position fixed on.

The contract under the Acts should, as a matter of form, be made with the Commissioners, and the work will be executed under the superintendence of any competent person selected by the Board of Guardians, who will in fact take care that the building is executed as economically and in as perfect a manner as possible. The Commissioners leave to the guardians the appointment of an architect or surveyor to direct the execution of the works, or to superintend their progress, and certify for payments, if they prefer appointing some local person to leaving this duty to the Commissioners' architect.

The guardians should therefore determine this point, and be prepared to name the person to superintend the work, in order that his name may be inserted in the contract; and also that of a third person, to act as umpire, in case of any dispute arising out of the building contract.

20 February 1844. (signed) *Geo. Wilkinson.*

No. 5423.

EXTRACTS from Guardians' Minutes, 6 March 1844.

THE following tenders were laid before the Board for the erection of a fever hospital:

	£.	s.	d.
John Murphy, jun.	650	–	–
William Ferguson	595	6	5
Dixon & M'Cambridge	578	–	–

Resolved, That the tender of Messrs. Dixon & M'Cambridge, to the amount of 578 *l.*, for the erection of a fever hospital, be accepted; and that Mr. Lanyon, county surveyor, be requested to superintend the building, and to perfect the specifications; to receive three per cent. on the outlay, inclusive of all charges.

Resolved, That the site of the fever hospital be the following: the centre of the rear of the main building to be midway between the extreme end of the male idiot ward and the old Glenarm road; the building to face the lough; arrangements for the building, and all kinds of detail, and communications from Mr. Lanyon, be referred to a committee, consisting of Mr. M'Gavel, Mr. Whittle, and Mr. Casement.

Resolved, That the tender of Messrs. Wm. M'Clelland and Hugh M'Keavy, to the amount of 7 *l.*, for building side walls to piers, and building a pipe at 20 *s.* per statute perch, be accepted.

Resolved, That the offer of the Belfast Banking Company, to advance 600 *l.* for the building of the fever hospital, at five per cent. per annum, be accepted, agreeable to their letter to Mr. Senior.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 11 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Larne Union, on the 6th instant; and with reference to the resolution, accepting the tender of Messrs. Dixon & M'Cambridge to erect a fever hospital on the workhouse site, and to employ Mr. Lanyon to superintend the building and prepare the specification, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed form of contract and bond for the due completion of the work.

See forms attached to the Lurgan Correspondence, pages 81 and 83.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, Larne Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 5873. LARNE UNION.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Union Workhouse, Larne, 14 March 1844.

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Lanyon, county surveyor, who is to superintend the building of the fever hospital, requesting me to send the plans and specification to him, to enable him to prepare the working drawings for the contractor.

I beg you will inform me, for the information of the committee, whether the plans which have been sent down are the working plans, or will it be necessary for Mr. Lanyon to prepare them? In the meantime I have sent the plans to Mr. Lanyon.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thos. M. Athinson,*
Clerk of the Union.

To A. Moore, Esq. Chief Clerk.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 18 March 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, relative to the plans of the fever hospital proposed to be erected in connexion with the workhouse of the Larne Union, and to state that the plans sent, and which were estimated from, are drawings suitable for both contract and working drawings; but it is possible Mr. Lanyon may prefer making working drawings, and using the ones which are estimated from as the contract ones only.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore,* Chief Clerk.

The Clerk to the Guardians, Larne Union.

LIMERICK UNION.

LIMERICK UNION.

No. 5941, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 March 1844.

Resolved, THAT one of the back stores be forthwith prepared for fever patients.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 March 1844.

WITH reference to a resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Limerick Union, that one of the back stores be forthwith prepared for fever patients, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to state, that with every desire to accede to the wishes of the Board of Guardians in this respect, they feel it to be their duty to withhold their sanction to any arrangement by which a part of the existing workhouse buildings are to be appropriated for the reception of fever patients. The Commissioners are assured that the objections to such a course, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against the workhouse relief, are of sufficient weight to warrant them in this course. The Commissioners have directed that an extract from the report of an eminent medical officer, made to the Board of Guardians on a similar proposition, and which is strongly confirmatory of the Commissioners' views, be forwarded herewith, for the information of the guardians of the Limerick Union; and they feel assured that the guardians will concur with them in opinion that they would not be justified in sanctioning an arrangement which involves the risk of life.

The Commissioners, however, are most anxious to aid the Board of Guardians in bringing into operation the benevolent provisions of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, in regard to the relief of persons afflicted with fever, in every way in which they can do so consistently with safety; and although they feel it necessary to withhold their assent to the arrangement now proposed, and the guardians may not consider it requisite or desirable to incur the expense of building detached fever wards on the workhouse site, they are at liberty, under the 15th section of the Amendment Act, to send poor persons in fever from the workhouse to a fever hospital, and to maintain such poor persons, while there, out of the poor-rates.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Limerick Union.

EXTRACT referred to in foregoing Letter.

THE defective nature of my suggestions may in some measure be accounted for, by a consideration of the innumerable obstacles to the attainment of a perfect system of accommodation for fever patients in the workhouse under existing circumstances, and to the preservation of the healthy inmates from the consequences of infectious disease.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LIMERICK UNION.

Under the arrangements contemplated, it may be possible to separate those labouring under fever from those affected with other complaints; but it will be quite impossible to prevent infection extending from the diseased to the healthy inmates of the house.

So long as fever is in the house, no matter what part of it, so long no inmate of the house can feel perfect immunity from disease.

Fever cannot be circumscribed, or its influence limited by a stone wall; it may be retarded or accelerated according to a variety of concomitant causes: the susceptibility of some persons to febrile disease, or their power of resisting it; atmospherical vicissitudes, or epidemical constitutions of the air, may conspire in doing so; but so long as you have one case in the house, you cannot calculate upon what part of the house, however remote, the second may occur in. This opinion may be verified by a reference to facts known to many members of this Board.

From which it follows of a consequence, that whenever fever prevails to any extent without doors, we are sure to have it within; and when once there, it cannot be limited to this or that division of the building.

No. 7249.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 27 March 1844.

Resolved, THAT the following be appointed a committee to inquire into the arrangements necessary for a fever hospital attached to the workhouse, and report to the Board, viz.: Mr. Cullen, Mr. Walnut, Mr. Brodie, Drs. Geary, Griffin, and Sir Richard Franklin, with the two medical officers of the establishment, to meet at 12 o'clock on Friday next.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

Note.—The guardians have since applied for, and been supplied with, plans for the addition of a fever ward.

LISBURN UNION.

LISBURN UNION.

No. 21846, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 November 1843.

THE report of the visiting committee was read, and orders were made thereon as follows:

It stated that one case of fever was now in the house, and that the doctor recommends that no paupers should be allowed to leave the house and return to it till the contagion is got under.

The doctor reports that the child of the woman in fever had also been this morning attacked by it.

No. 21846, D/1843.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 4 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Lisburn Union, on the 28th ultimo, and with reference to the recommendation of the medical officer therein recorded, that in consequence of there being fever in the house, no pauper should be allowed to leave the house or return to it until the contagion is got over, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that the adoption of this recommendation might interfere with that relief to the destitute which is actually necessary; and as fever cases must often occur in the Lisburn Union, the Commissioners wish the guardians to consider whether it will not be best to make some permanent arrangement, whereby such cases may be properly provided for in future, either by sending patients to the fever hospital, near to the workhouse, and paying for their maintenance therein, under the 15th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, or by making such provision under the 16th section as may appear to the guardians to be most for the interest of the union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the
Board of Guardians of the Lisburn Union.

No. 22325, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 December 1843.

Also one on the subject of fever patients.

IT was resolved, That all patients who cannot be accommodated in the workhouse shall be sent to the fever hospital, and paid for there, in future.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LISMORE UNION.

No. 21965, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 29 November 1843.

Notice of motion.

TAKE notice, that we purpose on this day fortnight to bring under the consideration of this Board our intention of applying that such portion of the rates of the union as may be considered necessary, should be made available for hiring or erecting a house for the reception and medical treatment of fever patients, in conformity with the provisions of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

(signed) *John Long.*
P. Hely.

Note by Clerk.—On the day referred to in the above notice no person appeared to move on it.

LONGFORD UNION.

No. 16585, D/43.

EXTRACTS from Guardians' Minutes, 9 September 1843.

MR. CARBERY gave notice that he would, on Saturday the 23d instant, propose that a committee be appointed to take into consideration and report to the Board the propriety of preparing a house for the reception of fever cases, as empowered to do by the 16th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

* * * * * * *

Ordered, That the clerk be directed to advertise for a nurse-tender, properly qualified; salary 10 *l.* a year, with rations; the appointment to be made on Saturday the 16th instant.

* * * * * * *

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 Sept. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union on the 9th instant, containing a resolution proposing to appoint a paid nurse for the infirmary in the workhouse, at a salary of 10 *l.* per annum; a notice of motion also appears on the minutes to propose that a house be hired to receive persons labouring under fever, in pursuance of the 6th & 7th Vict. c. 92, s. 16.

The Commissioners have also had before them the observations of Mr. Gilbert, Assistant Commissioner, on these matters, from which it appears that the Board of Guardians have come to the determination of appointing a paid nurse, principally on account of the cases of fever occurring in the workhouse.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners wish to point out to the Board, that provided an arrangement be made for fever patients, as proposed, independently of the workhouse, a paid nurse will doubtless be requisite in the building to be appropriated for such patients, and the pressure in that particular in the workhouse infirmary being removed, it will doubtless be found that the services of a paid nurse in the workhouse may be dispensed with. In any case such an agreement should be made with the person who may be appointed as nurse tender, as would render a separate appointment for either establishment unnecessary.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Longford Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 17350.

EXTRACT from Minutes, 23 September 1843.

PROPOSED by Mr. Carbery, and seconded by F. B. Edgeworth, Esq.,
That a committee be appointed to report to this Board on the best possible manner of providing suitable accommodation for fever patients.—Unanimous.

The following persons were elected to meet at 10 o'clock on Saturday next.

Chris. Carbery,
F. B. Edgeworth,
George Eivers,
James Farrell,
A. O'Beirne,
George Corcoran,
John O'Beirne,
Thos. Gregory, Esquires.

And the Chairman.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LONGFORD UNION.

No. 17915, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 30 September 1843.

THE chairman of the committee appointed on last day of meeting, to consider the best means of providing for fever patients, laid before the Board the following report:—

Your committee beg leave to report that it is their opinion, that though a provision for the reception of the numerous fever cases that occur in the neighbourhood is most necessary, yet that, as it is understood that there is a likelihood of a bill being passed by the Legislature next sessions to regulate the medical charities of the whole country, your committee consider it expedient to wait for the passing of that bill before commencing any new building or going to any great expense.

Your committee beg to state, that after an accurate inspection of the premises, they consider that the south-east wing of the present poorhouse, where the idiot ward now is, might, at a small expense of about 10 *l.*, be rendered fit for the reception of fever patients, and that they think it would be expedient to do so. They find that the number of idiots in the house is so small, that they might all be put in the wards at the other side of the house.

Your committee consider that all that would be necessary on the present occasion to accomplish their object would be, to build up the door which now communicates with the inner yard, and to make a closed door on the archway to the back, also a lath and plaster partition at the top of the stairs, so as to cut off from the landing-place a room appropriated for convalescent patients; also to open a skylight for lighting the stairs; also to alter the windows in the lower room so as to admit proper ventilation; also to make a suitable fire-place in the room now called the keeper's room, for kitchen purposes.

(signed) *F. B. Edgeworth*, Chairman.
John O'Beirne.
George Corcoran, M.D.
James Farrell.
George Eivers, M.D.

Mr. Richardson proposed that the report read be adopted by the Board.

Mr. Carbery, one of the committee, proposed the following amendment to the Board, same having been rejected by a majority of the committee:—

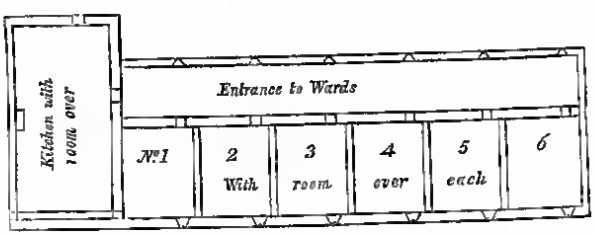
That the population of this union exceeds 85,000; that the present house does not afford accommodation to any more than the destitute poor that may require relief from time to time; that there is sufficient ground waste upon the south-eastern point of the land outside of the boundary wall of the workhouse to build a fever hospital on, quite distinct and free from any communication with the workhouse, and capable of affording relief contemplated by the late Act of the Legislature, 6th & 7th Vict. c. 92; that we respectfully recommend that the Commissioners will sanction and order a portion of the waste ground to be given for the erection of an hospital capable of extending the relief above referred to. We also send herewith a rough sketch of a building, upon a small scale, which may at any period be extended to meet the increased wants, if such be necessary, there being no fever hospital in any part of this union.

The report and amendment having been put to the Board by the chairman, the report was adopted by a majority of 16 to 5.

COPY rough sketch of hospital referred to in minutes of proceedings on the 30th September.

(signed) *E. Rooney*, Clerk, Longford Union.

FEVER HOSPITAL.



No. 17915, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 13 Oct. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union on the 30th ultimo, containing a report of the committee appointed to consider the measures to be taken to provide accommodation for fever patients, under the provisions of the 6th & 7th Vict. c. 92; and with reference to the proposition to convert a portion of the workhouse into fever wards, the Commissioners have

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

have directed me to state, that after much deliberation, they have been advised and are of opinion that no part of the existing workhouse can, with safety to the health of the inmates generally, be adapted for the reception of fever patients. All will agree that in a matter of so much importance it is necessary to act on a safe principle, and the Commissioners have accordingly, in the exercise of the responsibility imposed upon them by the Legislature, declined to sanction any arrangements contemplating an appropriation of parts of the present workhouse for the reception of fever patients, and they cannot depart from the general rule in the case of the workhouse of the Longford Union.

The Commissioners have at the same time directed me to forward herewith, for the information of the Board of Guardians, a copy of a letter which they have addressed to the Board of Guardians of another union, expressive of the Commissioners' views with respect to the provisions of the 6th and 7th Vict. c. 92, with respect to providing accommodation for persons labouring under fever.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Walmisley*, First Clerk.

COPY Enclosure in the above Letter.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 30 Sept. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, requesting information as to the mode of bringing into operation that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act which relates to fever hospitals.

The Commissioners presume that your inquiry relates only to the 16th section of the Act, and in reference thereto I am directed to state that much will depend upon local circumstances, as for instance, the existence of a fever hospital in the district, or the want of one; and these circumstances should be carefully considered before making any arrangements.

Generally, however, the Commissioners are now prepared to sanction the providing of all necessary accommodation for persons ill of fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, who, when ill, are unable to pay and provide for the medical assistance and accommodation requisite under such circumstances. A large class of persons may be unable to provide themselves with medical assistance, and the necessary accommodation, when ill, (of such dangerous disease) who are able to provide for themselves, or in other words, who are not destitute, when well. For this class the fever accommodation is intended. The guardians would not be justified in finding medical assistance or other accommodation for those who are able to pay for or otherwise provide it for themselves, but for all poor persons in the union who cannot provide it for themselves, it is clearly the intention of the Legislature to have it provided by the guardians.

Every union, therefore, will ultimately have its own fever hospital for its own use (except such as have a fever hospital at hand), and if the matter is properly and economically managed, it is not anticipated that much, if any, ultimate extra expense upon the rates will be caused by the arrangement, because it is self evident that vast numbers are rendered destitute by the fatal effects of fever and other dangerous contagious disease, who, if fever patients are properly provided for, and the disease thus kept from spreading, would not be rendered destitute. If a man dies of fever his family often becomes destitute; if a widow dies of fever the children become destitute.

The expense will, however, depend upon proper arrangement; and the ultimate arrangements of the guardians, and the cost of such arrangements, will very much depend upon the mode in which they commence. It is clear that no part of the existing workhouses can safely be permitted to be converted into fever wards. The Commissioners are advised that a due regard to the health of the inmates must prevent them from sanctioning any alteration of the present buildings for the purpose, and all will agree that in a matter of so much importance it is necessary to act upon safe principle.

If the fever wards are erected at a little distance from the workhouse, but upon the workhouse site, it is certain that this part of the establishment might be managed by the officers of the workhouse, with the assistance, of course, of a regular, good, paid, responsible nurse.

It is also certain that in this case a proper check could be had over the provisions and supplies requisite in such an establishment, but if a house is hired outside, other paid officers must be appointed for its management and control.

A plain building, two stories high, with windows on each side for ventilation, might be erected at little cost, and in the end it will be far more economical and satisfactory than any other course which can be adopted.

Of course in the admission of fever patients, the strict rules which govern admission into the workhouse would not be enforced, or indeed be applicable or necessary; wives without husbands, children without parents, and in fact all who are ill of fever and unable to provide or be provided for otherwise, may be received when in fever.

Before, however, the guardians come to any determination as to the course which they may wish to adopt, they would do well to take an opportunity of conferring with the Assistant Commissioner on the subject.

I am &c.
(signed) *A Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LONGFORD UNION.

No. 18865, D.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 October 1843.

RESOLVED unanimously, That the Poor Law Commissioners be respectfully requested to have prepared by their architect, as soon as possible, a plan of building adapted for the accommodation of fever patients, the guardians having agreed to adopt their suggestion, and erect an hospital at the extremity of the south-east side of the workhouse ground. In preparing the plan, the guardians request the architect to bear in mind that there is no fever hospital in the union; at the same time their wish is that the building should be erected in the cheapest manner possible, but sufficient to carry out the intention of the Legislature, as explained in the copy of the letter addressed to another Board by the Commissioners, and read this day.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 17 Oct. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union, on the 14th instant, and have forwarded a copy of the resolution relative to the provision of wards for fever patients, under the provisions of the 6th & 7th Vict. c. 92, to their architect, with a request that he will prepare the necessary plans.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Walmisley*,
First Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Longford Union.

No. 22049.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 2 December 1843.

PROPOSED by Mr. Carbery, and unanimously adopted:

That a period of nearly two months has elapsed since an application was made by the guardians of this union to the Poor Law Commissioners, to direct their architect to furnish a plan and specification for a fever hospital, capable of affording relief to those suffering under that dreadful disease; which plan and specification we regret has not yet been furnished. We therefore respectfully request that the Commissioners will direct their architect to forward them without further delay, as fever, we are sorry to say, has spread to a considerable extent in this, as well as several other electoral divisions of the union.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 7 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union on the 2d instant, and have directed me to forward to you herewith, for the information of the guardians, plans of a fever hospital which have been prepared by the Commissioners' architect.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

When the guardians shall have selected one of the plans, the Commissioners, on the plan being returned to this office, will direct the necessary specification of the works to be prepared. The Commissioners at the same time request the guardians' attention to the letter addressed to them on the 13th October last on this subject.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Longford Union.

No. 22513.

EXTRACT from the Guardians' Minutes, 9 December 1843.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, forwarding three plans for a fever hospital, and stating that the specifications would be prepared as soon as one of them was adopted by the guardians.

Resolved unanimously, That we adopt the plan No. 1, with an addition to the length of the house of 20 feet; as the guardians are unanimously of opinion that from the extent of this union, and the prevalence of fever, it would be desirable to have the house so much larger. The guardians also wish that the wards on the ground floor should be divided so as to accommodate convalescent patients, and that doors should be made from the convalescent wards at the rear of the building into the yards.

Resolved, That the Poor Law Commissioners' architect be requested to furnish specifications for the plan No. 1, with the additions above referred to, without delay; and that he be also requested to give the guardians some idea of the probable expense of the building, with enclosed yards, &c. &c., which will assist them in contracting for its erection.

Resolved, That in consequence of the great inconvenience felt in this union for want of a burial place attached to the workhouse, (the deceased paupers at present being obliged to be sent through the entire town to the churchyard), as well as the great advantage additional ground would be for a site for the fever hospital about to be erected, the guardians

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

dians are induced to apply to Lord Longford, with the hope that taking into consideration the high rent already paid for the workhouse plot, and the purposes for which a small increase of land is required, his Lordship will, with his usual generosity and benevolence, direct his agents to add to the ground already rented by the guardians, a small portion containing about half an acre, situated at the rear of the workhouse, and formerly part of the field. The guardians are the more anxious for this addition, from the fact of the situation being so desirable for building a fever hospital upon; and as it will be a county hospital, and built on his Lordship's estate, the guardians feel confident that he will not refuse their application.

Ordered, That the clerk be directed to forward a copy of the above resolution to Lord Longford, and one to Messrs. Stewart & Kincaid, with a respectful request for an early answer to the application, as, from the prevalence of fever at present in the immediate neighbourhood of Longford, as well as in other districts, the guardians are most anxious that no time should be lost in erecting the hospital.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union on the 9th instant, and have directed me to request that the plans of a fever hospital forwarded to you some time since may be returned, the plan selected by the guardians being marked accordingly, in order that the architect may prepare the specification and make the alterations in the plan required by the Board of Guardians.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Longford Union.

No. 23161.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Longford Union, 20 December 1843.

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your communication this day, requesting the plans of a fever hospital, forwarded some time since, may be returned.

I beg to state that on the 11th instant I posted the Plan No. 1, marked as the plan adopted by the guardians, directed as usual, I therefore trust it will be found in the office; the other two plans I send by this post.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edw. Rooney*,
Clerk to the Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
&c. &c. &c.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 21 Dec. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowlege the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and to state that the plans referred to have been received in their architect's office; the plans having been forwarded to that office, the Commissioners would not in the ordinary course of business be informed of their receipt, which occasioned their writing to you on the subject.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians,
Longford Union, Longford.

No. 23363.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 December 1843.

READ letter from Messrs. Stewart & Kincaid, stating that the Earl of Longford will have great pleasure in acceding to the request of the guardians for additional ground to erect a fever hospital upon, but that at present he is not disposed to grant any ground for a burial place.

Resolved, That the warm thanks of this Board be hereby given to the Earl of Longford for the prompt and generous manner he has responded to the wishes of the guardians in giving, free of rent, a site for the fever hospital about to be erected, and that as regards the burial ground, the Board hope that his Lordship may at some future period be induced to enter into their views, both as to its being a matter of convenience to the institution, and the objectionable display of funerals it will prevent, at which it is possible contagion may be extended to his Lordship's tenantry in the town and neighbourhood.

That copies of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the Earl of Longford and Messrs. Stewart & Kincaid.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LONGFORD UNION.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 5 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union, on the 23d ultimo, containing a resolution expressive of the thanks of the Board for the liberal gift of the Earl of Longford of a piece of ground, rent-free, for the site of the proposed fever hospital.

In reference thereto, I am directed to inform the guardians that it will be necessary that the site of the fever hospital should be conveyed to the Commissioners, and whenever the exact site shall have been determined upon the Commissioners will, on receiving the requisite information, cause the proper deed to be prepared.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians, Longford Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 2472.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 3d February 1844.

Ordered, THAT the clerk be directed to advertise for contractors to build the fever hospital, according to the plans and specifications prepared by the Poor Law Commissioners' architect.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 Feb. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union on the 3d instant, containing a resolution directing the clerk to advertise for proposals from persons who may be desirous to contract for building the fever hospital, according to the plans and specifications prepared by the Commissioners' architect.

In reference thereto, the Commissioners have directed me to state that, inasmuch as the contract for the work must, under the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts, be made in the names of the Commissioners, the tenders which may be received in pursuance of the advertisement, made according to the resolution of the guardians, should be forwarded to the Commissioners, with a copy of any resolution which the Board of Guardians may pass, adopting one of the tenders. The Commissioners will then direct the preparation of the necessary contract to be entered into by the builder whose tender may be adopted.

I am at the same time to request that the Commissioners may be informed by what architect or surveyor the Board of Guardians wish the building to be superintended.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians, Longford Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

LETTER to Mr. *Gilbert*, Assistant Commissioner.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 Feb. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration your observations on the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union on the 3d instant, on the subject of the proposed advertisement for tenders from persons who may be desirous of contracting for building the fever ward to the workhouse; and the Commissioners have directed me to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of the letter which has this day been addressed to the Board of Guardians thereon. The Commissioners are of opinion that they may legally adopt any architect or builder, either chosen by themselves or nominated and selected by the guardians.

I am at the same time to request that you will take the necessary steps for obtaining the consent in writing of a majority of the whole of the members of the Board of Guardians to the expenditure of such a sum as it is estimated will be sufficient to cover the expense of the additional building proposed.

When the guardians have determined on the tender to be accepted, this estimate can be made at once, and you will probably be enabled to obtain the consent of the guardians at the meeting at which they examined the tenders.

The Commissioners, on receiving the consent, will issue an order to the Board of Guardians to raise or borrow the sum required.

A form of consent is enclosed herewith.

I have, &c.

W. J. Gilbert, Esq. &c. &c. &c. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ENCLOSURE in foregoing letter.

Longford Union.

LONGFORD UNION.

WE, the undersigned guardians of the poor of the Longford Union, do hereby consent to the expenditure of a sum of money not exceeding the sum of £. , to be expended or directed to be expended by the Poor Law Commissioners for the purpose of purchasing land, for building thereon an additional building to be used hereafter as part and parcel of the workhouse of Longford Union, and for the purpose of building thereon such additional building as aforesaid.

Witness our hands hereunto subscribed at the respective dates hereunder mentioned:—

Date of Signature.	Signatures of Guardians.

No. 411, D/44.

REPORT from Mr. Wilkinson.

Longford Union.

Architect's Office, Poor Law Commission,
Dublin, 5 January 1844.

Gentlemen,

IN submitting to the consideration of your Board the plans for a fever hospital proposed to be erected for the Longford Union, I beg to state that they have been prepared in accordance with the request of the guardians, and I have to recommend that the increased size be sanctioned.

A specification of the scantlings of the timbers, and other constructive details, are on the drawings, and I beg to recommend their being sent to the Board of Guardians, that they may make arrangements for obtaining tenders for the execution of the work; it will, however, first be necessary that the guardians determine on the particulars of construction aftermentioned, namely, the kind of floors to be laid, the description of masonry, and the mode in which the internal walls of the rooms should be finished, whether with brick linings or otherwise. It will also be required that arrangements be made relative to the terms on which the contract should be made, and the money advanced to the contractor, as well as for the superintendence of the works; and as all these matters are necessary to insure a satisfactory result, I am of opinion that the architect or surveyor whom the guardians may engage to direct the works, and to certify for the payments to be made to the contractors, should be the person to introduce these particulars into the clauses of the specification which will have to be made for binding the contractor to execute the works in a sound and proper manner.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

(signed) *George Wilkinson.*

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 Jan. 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you herewith, to be laid before the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union, a copy of the Report which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Wilkinson, their architect, on the plans of the fever ward proposed to be erected on the ground attached to the workhouse.

I am, at the same time, to enclose the plans and specifications thereon, referred to in that Report, and to request that the Board of Guardians will consider whose services they will employ as architect or surveyor.

The Commissioners concur with Mr. Wilkinson in thinking that the specification should be filled up by the person whom the guardians may determine on employing in that capacity.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Longford Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 3160.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 10 February 1844.

Ordered, THAT the proposals to be received for erecting the fever hospital be taken into consideration on Saturday the 2d March next.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LONGFORD UNION.

No. 3655.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 17 February 1844.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, stating that as the contract for building the fever hospital must be made in their names, that the tenders to be received should be forwarded to them, together with any resolutions which the Board of Guardians may come to on the subject; also requesting to be informed by what architect or surveyor the guardians wish the building to be superintended.

Resolved, That it is the wish of this Board that the Poor Law Commissioners' architect, Mr. Wilkinson, may superintend the building, and that the clerk be directed to forward to him a copy of the specification, in addition to that on the plans, for his approval; it is also the wish of the Board that the clerk of the union be directed to act as clerk of works, under the direction of Mr. Wilkinson.

No. 4877.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 2 March 1844.

THE several proposals for erecting the fever hospital and the entrance gates and wall having been taken into consideration, it was

Resolved, That the proposal of Mr. George Cowan for building the fever hospital for the sum of 621 *l.* be accepted, subject to his signing such contract as may be prepared by the guardians and sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners, the work to be executed to the satisfaction of their architect, Mr. George Wilkinson.

Resolved, That the proposal of John Clarke and John Mullen be accepted, to build the boundary wall, and erect the gates, for the sum of 120 *l.*, subject to their signing such contract as may be prepared by the guardians.

Messrs. Clarke & Mullen having refused to build the wall, unless they got the contract for the hospital, it was

Resolved, That Mr. George Cowan's proposal for same, for the sum of 149 *l.* 10 *s.*, be accepted, subject to the same conditions as those resolved upon with reference to the fever hospital.

Resolved, That a consent for the expenditure of a sum of money, not exceeding 1,000 *l.*, for the purpose of purchasing land, for building thereon an additional building, to be hereafter used as part and parcel of the workhouse of the Longford Union, be signed by the guardians present, and by as many other guardians as will constitute a majority of the entire guardians of the union.

Resolved, That Mrs. Farrelly may be allowed the sum of 5 *l.*, on her giving up possession to such person as may be authorized to receive same by Lord Longford's agents, of that portion of the field at the rear of the workhouse ground now occupied by her.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 8 March 1844.

REFERRING to the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Longford Union, on the 2d instant, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to request, that you will forward to them the tenders which have been accepted for building the fever ward and boundary wall.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians, Longford Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 5528.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Longford Union, 9 March 1844.

I SEND you herewith the accepted tenders for the fever hospital and boundary wall, which I would have forwarded with the copy of the minutes of the 2d instant, but waited for arrangements to be entered into between the guardians and the contractor, as to the mode of payment. When such arrangements are settled upon and signed by him, I shall forward the document without delay.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Rooney*, Clerk of the Union.

Note.—Tenders referred to architect, who, considering the amount of the accepted tenders reasonable, forwarded to the guardians specification and drawings, to be signed as those referred to in the contract.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LONGFORD UNION.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing Letter.

I HEREBY propose to build and complete the fever hospital, at the back of Longford Union workhouse, according to the plans and specification of George Wilkinson, esq., architect to the Poor Law Commissioners, for the sum of six hundred and twenty-one pounds sterling (£.621.)

(signed) *Geo. Cowan.*

Longford, 1 March 1844.

LETTER to the Clerk to the Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 15 March 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to forward to you herewith a form of articles of agreement and bond to be entered into by the contractor for erecting the fever ward and boundary wall, &c. at the workhouse of the Longford Union.

See forms comprised in the Lurgan correspondence, pages 81 and 83.

When the bond shall have been executed, you will be good enough to forward it to this office, in order that a copy may be filed.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Longford Union, Longford.

(signed) *Arthur Moore,* Chief Clerk.

No. 6030.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 16 March 1844.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, forwarding a contract and bond, to be perfected by the contractor for the fever hospital and boundary wall and his sureties.

Ordered, That the clerk be directed to have the bond and contract perfected, according to the agreement entered into with Mr. Cowan, and signed by him.

LURGAN UNION.

LURGAN UNION.

No. 22514, D/43.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 9 December 1843.

I AM instructed by the Board respectfully to direct your attention to the resolution on the accompanying minutes of the 7th instant, relative to the appropriation of a portion of the workhouse for the reception of fever patients, * * * * and to request your suggestions thereon.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

(signed) *Thomas Pentland,* Clerk to the Union.

No. 22514.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, referred to in the foregoing Letter.

READ a letter from John Hancock, esq., the treasurer and secretary of the dispensary, enclosing the following resolution of the governors thereof at their annual meeting, held on 21st November last, the Rev. Hamilton Dobbin in the chair:

"Resolved, That we regret to find fever to be on the increase in this district, and that we think some steps should be taken to appropriate a part of the workhouse for the reception of poor persons afflicted with this disease, and that our secretary be requested to call the attention of the Board of Guardians to the provisions contained in the Amended Poor Law Act for effecting this desirable object.

"Resolved, That it appears to this Board that infectious fever prevails to a considerable extent in this union, and permission is therefore requested from the Poor Law Commissioners to appropriate a part of the workhouse as a fever hospital."

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 13 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Lurgan Union, on the 7th instant, containing a resolution relative

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LURGAN UNION.

to the proposed appropriation of a portion of the workhouse of the Lurgan Union for the purpose of a fever hospital.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with safety, and the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance.

The Commissioners, however, are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital.

The Commissioners, however, are quite alive to the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions in which (as at Lurgan) no fever accommodation is at present available.

With this view the Commissioners have, in other unions similarly circumstanced, sanctioned the erection of an out-ward upon the workhouse site, at such a distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious disease. If the guardians consider it desirable to erect an out-ward for this purpose, under ss. 35 & 36 of the Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with the guardians in carrying out their wishes in the manner which the Board of Guardians may consider most for their own interests.

The Commissioners could furnish three sets of plans, which have been supplied to and adopted by other Boards, and if one of them were selected, the Commissioners would furnish the necessary specifications and working drawings free of cost, and the guardians could then advertise for tenders for the execution of the work under their own control and supervision, and would probably borrow the money, to be paid off by three or five yearly instalments.

It is obvious that under this arrangement the present staff of officers (with some addition to the salary of the medical attendant) would be sufficient for the management and supervision of the department, with the addition of a good, responsible, paid nurse. The account of provisions supplied to the fever patients would all pass through the regular workhouse books, and although under this arrangement parts of families might be admitted when in fever, and the strict rules applicable to the admission of inmates to other parts of the workhouse might be dispensed with, as regards this class of patients, no inconvenience would practically arise therefrom, inasmuch as the fever hospital would be a distinct building, apart from that to which the Commissioners feel it necessary for the public interest to enforce the strict rules laid down for the guidance of all Boards of Guardians regarding admission for general relief.

* * * * * * * *

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Lurgan Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 22867.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 December 1843.

Ordered, THAT the clerk be directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, and to request them to forward the various plans for fever hospitals, and the estimate for each.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 15 December 1843.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th instant, No. 22514, D/43, in reference to a fever hospital being built on the workhouse ground, and respectfully to request that you will forward for their consideration the plans mentioned therein as adopted by other unions, together with the estimates for same.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

(signed) *Thomas Pentland*, Clerk to the Union.

No. 22867, D/43.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have bad before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Lurgan Union, on the 14th instant, containing a resolution requesting the Commissioners to forward to the Board of Guardians plans for the erection of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse.

In

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward three drawings for fever hospitals, and to state, that on the guardians selecting the plan which they wish to adopt, and returning the whole of the drawings to this office, the Commissioners will cause the necessary working drawings and specifications to enable the guardians to procure tenders for the work to be at once prepared.

The estimated cost of the buildings is marked on the plans.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Lurgan.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

No. 23271.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 December 1843.

MR. HANCOCK gives notice that on this day fortnight he will move that a suitable fever hospital be built on the workhouse grounds.

No. 444, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 4 January 1844.

MOVED by Mr. Hancock, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that a suitable fever hospital, according to plan No. 1, submitted to the Board, be erected on the site of this workhouse grounds, and that the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to forward the plans, estimates, and specifications for the erection thereof, in accordance with the plan No. 1, as soon as possible.

Amendment moved by Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. May, that the further consideration of the building of a fever hospital in connexion with this poorhouse, be postponed for six months.

Amendment negatived by the casting vote of the chairman. The original motion was then put and carried.

No. 376, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen,

Board-room, 4 January 1844.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to request that you will be good enough to furnish them, at your very earliest convenience, with the estimate, specification, and all the working plans and drawings requisite for the erection of a fever hospital, according to plan No. 1, forwarded to the guardians from your office.

The Board have this day resolved to build an hospital in pursuance of said plan on the workhouse ground; and as fever is very much on the increase in this union, they are anxious to commence with the least possible delay.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Pentland*,
Clerk to the Union.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 17 Jan. 1844.

REFERRING to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed plans and specification for providing a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the Lurgan Union, together with a copy of the observations submitted to the Commissioners by the architect on receiving instructions to prepare the plans.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union,
Lurgan.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*,
Chief Clerk.

ARCHITECT'S Observations referred to in the foregoing Letter.

THERE is a great responsibility attached to the preparation of plans and specifications of a building for which a contract has to be made, and the work to be executed under the superintendence of another professional person, who will throw all blame on the architect who prepares the specification if anything is wrong or badly executed. I will prepare a plan and outline specification, but it cannot be done under 10 days or a fortnight. I beg respectfully to recommend that the clauses for binding the contractor and the local particulars should be left to be arranged by the person the guardians may employ; for unless the matter is altogether left to this office to arrange the contract, it will not be possible to complete the documents so as to ensure a satisfactory result.

6 Jan. 1844.

(signed) *George Wilkinson*, Architect.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LURGAN UNION.

No. 846.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 January 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners to be requested to furnish the specifications, estimate, and working drawings of fever hospital, on plan No. 1, with all possible despatch.

No. 845, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 12 January 1844.

THE Board have directed me most respectfully to request that you will be good enough to order that the working plans, estimates, and specifications necessary for the erection of the fever hospital to be built here may be sent with all convenient despatch.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Pentland*, Clerk to the Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

No. 1461.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 18 January 1844.

Resolved, THAT our clerk issue an advertisement in a Belfast and Newry paper, and also in the Dublin Advertiser, for tenders for the erection of a fever hospital, according to the plans and specifications in his hands, and that handbills to the same effect be posted throughout the union. Sealed tenders to be sent in on or before the 7th of February.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, to consist of Lord Lurgan, Messrs. Hancock, Green, Porter, M'Carlin, Dolling, and Ruddell, to read over the specification, and make such alterations therein as they may deem necessary, and that they have power to select the site.

No. 1868.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 25 January 1844.

THE committee for choosing the site and amending the specification for fever hospital made the following report, which was received and adopted by the Board of Guardians:

"The committee met and revised the specification, and they have selected as the site of the new fever hospital that portion of the grounds behind the workhouse now occupied as a manure stand and as a grave-yard, in the south west of the premises."

No. 3162.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 8 February 1844.

WE, the undersigned, members of the Board of Guardians of the Lurgan Poor Law Union, recommend that a fever hospital be erected on the workhouse grounds, and hereby authorize the expenditure of the money, under the Act 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56, s. 36.—Lurgan, chairman; Charles Douglas, Thomas Waring, Francis F. Forde, William Johnston, Edward Berwick, John Hancock, Robert Dolling, Thomas Milsop, David Love, James Brown, Jackson Clarke, Nelson Ballick, D. C. Gitty, Josh. Chinty, Coslett Waddell, Joseph Hall Boyd, George Greer.

Resolved, That the following guardians be a committee, for the purpose of superintending the erection of the fever hospital, with full powers to take whatever steps may be necessary to forward the work; three to form a quorum, and to meet when convened by the clerk; viz. Lord Lurgan, Messrs. Douglas, Hancock, Green, Dolling, Boyd, Forde and M'Carlen, The clerk to request from the Poor Law Commissioners a form of contract wherewith to bind the contractor for fever hospital.

(signed) *Thomas Pentland*, Clerk to the Union.

No. 3161, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 10 February 1844.

I HAVE the honour to report for your consideration that Mr. James Phelan has been declared the contractor for building the fever hospital at this workhouse, and that Mr. Arthur Forde has been appointed the clerk of works, to be paid a sum of 25*l.* for his services when the work is completed; and I have to request that you will be good enough to favour me with a form of contract wherewith to bind the contractor and his sureties.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

(signed) *Thomas Pentland*, Clerk to the Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LURGAN UNION.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and, in compliance with your request, to forward to you the enclosed form of contract for erecting a fever hospital on the workhouse site. I am, at the same time, to call your attention to the blank left for the name of the arbitrator to be appointed in the event of dispute; this blank should be filled up with the name of the architect of the Poor Law Commission, or such other architect as the guardians may think proper to name, prior to the completion of the document.

I am also to forward to you a form of consent to the erection of the building, and the expenditure of the sum necessary for the purpose, which should be signed by a majority of the whole number of guardians, and then returned to the Commissioners, who will thereupon issue an order authorizing the guardians to raise or borrow the amount required.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union.

ENCLOSURES in foregoing Letter.

I.

ARTICLES of Agreement made the day of , in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and between the Poor Law Commissioners of the one part, and of the other part.

THE said doth hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said Commissioners for the time being, that he the said , his executors or administrators, shall or will, for the considerations hereinafter mentioned, and in conformity with the dates hereinafter set forth, erect, build, and completely cover in and finish, upon the premises at aforesaid, according to the specification, and subject to the clauses or conditions therein contained, and agreeable to the several drawings prepared for such purpose, and which said specification and drawings are severally verified, by the signature of the said thereto, as the drawings and specifications referred to by this agreement. And also do and perform and execute, or cause and procure to be done, performed, and executed, all and singular the works also mentioned in the said specification and drawings, the same to be done and completed within , and in a good, workmanlike, and substantial manner, with such materials and under such regulations as are contained in the aforesaid specification, to the satisfaction of , who is to superintend the erection of the said building, such satisfaction to be testified by a writing or certificate under the hand of the said .

And also shall and will find and provide such good, proper, and sufficient materials of all kinds whatsoever as shall be proper and sufficient for erecting the said buildings; such of the said materials as are mentioned in the said specification, or on the said drawings aforesaid, to be of the qualities and descriptions therein mentioned, and shall and will completely finish the said works. It is also agreed between the said Poor Law Commissioners and the said , that he the said shall and will restore, rebuild, and replace all injury, loss, or damage that may be, accrue, or be occasioned to the building by fire or otherwise (except when occasioned by public riots or by lightning).

And it is further agreed by and between the said parties, that if the said , his executors or administrators, shall in any manner neglect or be guilty of any delay whatsoever in building and completely finishing the said buildings and works as aforesaid, or shall in any manner whatever deviate from, or not comply with, the aforesaid specification and drawings, or any or either of them, and the said shall certify the same by writing under his hand, and the said Commissioners for the time being shall cause notice in writing of such neglect or delay to be given or left at the place of abode of him the said , his executors or administrators, or on the premises, and the said , his executors or administrators, shall not, according to the direction of the said , complete the said buildings and works according to the said specification and drawings, within the space of days after such notice given or left as aforesaid, then and in any such case it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners for the time being either to make and enter into a contract with any person or persons whom they, the said Commissioners, may think proper to contract with, for the completion of the said building, or of any part thereof, or for the performance of all or any part of the works remaining unfinished; or through their architect or otherwise, to purchase proper and sufficient materials, and also to employ a sufficient number of surveyors, agents, and workmen, to finish and complete the said works; and also that the said Commissioners for the time being shall and may deduct or retain to themselves the cost of such materials, and all such sum and sums of money as they shall pay to such surveyors, agent, and workmen for the completion of such works, and all expenses which the said Commissioners for the time being shall incur or be liable to in entering upon such new contract as aforesaid, or in any way in consequence of such default on the part of the said , his executors or administrators, out of the money which shall be due to the said , his

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LURGAN UNION.

Now, the condition of the foregoing obligation is such, that if the said , their executors or administrators, or some one of them, do and shall in all things well and truly observe, perform, fulfil, and keep all and every the covenants, clauses, conditions, and agreements in the said hereinbefore recited articles and specification contained or referred to on the part of them the said , their executors and administrators, to be performed, fulfilled, and kept, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and of the parties thereto, then and in such case the foregoing bond or obligation shall cease and become null and void, and of none effect; otherwise, to be and remain in full force and virtue in law.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of ———.

To , Gentleman, Attorney of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, or to any other Attorney of the same Court, or to any Attorney of any other Her Majesty's Courts of Record in Ireland, Great Britain, or elsewhere.

THESE are to authorize and appoint you, or any of you, to appear for me, , at the suit of the Poor Law Commissioners, their successors or assigns, and confess judgment as of term, or of any other term or time whatsoever after the day of the date hereof, with stay of execution until a breach or non-performance on the part of , their executors or administrators, of some or one of the covenants, clauses, or conditions contained in certain articles of agreement, bearing date the , and made and concluded, upon, by, and between the Poor Law Commissioners of the one part, and of the other part, shall happen or take place in the said Court of Queen's Bench, or any other of Her Majesty's courts of record in Ireland, Great Britain, or elsewhere, by acknowledging the action, or otherwise upon a declaration there to be filed against me upon a bond for sterling, bearing date the , conditioned for the true and faithful performance by the said , their executors or administrators, of all and every the covenants, clauses, conditions, and agreements on their part contained and agreed to be performed, fulfilled, and kept, in and by the said therein in part recited and hereinbefore mentioned articles of agreement; and for your, or any of your so doing, this shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge. And know all men by these presents, that I, the said , do hereby for myself, and my heirs, executors, and administrators, authorize you, or any of you, to remise, release, and for ever quit claim unto the said Poor Law Commissioners, and their successors and assigns, all and all manner of error or errors, or misprision of error or errors, or erroneous proceedings whatsoever that are or may be in the said judgment or the proceedings therenpon. Witness my hand and seal the day of 18 .

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of ———.

No. 3892, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 20 February 1844.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of a bond for one surety for fulfilment of contract for erecting fever hospital, and on submitting it to the committee, they are of opinion that as there are two sureties a second bond is requisite. I shall feel obliged by your forwarding another form, that all may be perfected at once.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin. (signed) *Thos. Pentland*, Clerk to Union.

LETTERS in reply to the foregoing.

I.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 21 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, requesting to be furnished with another form of contract and bond for erecting the fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the Lurgan Union, and to state that the draft from which the copies already sent to you were prepared not being now in the office, the Commissioners are unable to forward you copies by this night's post, but they will do so immediately on the drafts being returned by Mr. Senior, to whom they have been forwarded. If the documents are required to be completed at once, you should cause copies to be made from those already forwarded to you; but the bond may easily be so altered as to render the sureties jointly and severally bound for the amount which may be inserted in the bond.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

II.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 22 February 1844.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th instant, I am now directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copies of the form of contract and bond for the erection of a fever hospital.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 4068, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 22 February 1844.

I AM honoured by the receipt of your communication of yesterday, No. 3892, D/44, in answer to my letter of the 20th instant, wherein I had written for another copy of bond only, as the committee thought the printed one I had received was not designed for two sureties. The contract I have already copied, and the committee have now ordered me to alter the printed form of bond, so that it may embrace the two sureties with the contractor; so that I will not trouble you further on the subject.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin. (signed) *Thos. Pentland*, Clerk to Union.

No. 4237.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 22 February 1844.

Ordered, THAT during the present unfortunate pressure of illness, Dr. Bell be instructed to make use of the two probationary wards for convalescent fever patients, and that the clothes of all fever patients, after washing, be baked in the fumigating oven. The building committee met, and selected the site of the new building as marked out by Mr. Forde, the clerk of works, on the workhouse grounds.

No. 6032.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 March 1844.

MR. DOLLING gives notice that on this day fortnight he will move that the salary of the medical attendants be increased 10 *l.* per annum.

Ordered, That chlorate of lime be more freely used in all the wards where fever patients are or have been.

No. 6032.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 27 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Lurgan Union, on the 14th instant, and with reference to the notice of motion to increase the salary of the medical officer of the workhouse, I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners whether the proposed increase is intended to meet the additional duties consequent upon the fever hospital; if so, the Commissioners will not offer any objection.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 7341.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 March 1844.

Resolved, THAT the Board, contemplating the additional duties of Dr. Bell, consequent on his attendance in the fever hospital, have agreed to increase his salary 10*l.* per annum from this date.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LURGAN UNION.

Now, the condition of the foregoing obligation is such, that if the said , their executors or administrators, or some one of them, do and shall in all things well and truly observe, perform, fulfil, and keep all and every the covenants, clauses, conditions, and agreements in the said hereinbefore recited articles and specification contained or referred to on the part of them the said , their executors and administrators, to be performed, fulfilled, and kept, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and of the parties thereto, then and in such case the foregoing bond or obligation shall cease and become null and void, and of none effect; otherwise, to be and remain in full force and virtue in law.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of ———.

To , Gentleman, Attorney of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, or to any other Attorney of the same Court, or to any Attorney of any other Her Majesty's Courts of Record in Ireland, Great Britain, or elsewhere.

THESE are to authorize and appoint you, or any of you, to appear for me, , at the suit of the Poor Law Commissioners, their successors or assigns, and confess judgment as of term, or of any other term or time whatsoever after the day of the date hereof, with stay of execution until a breach or non-performance on the part of , their executors or administrators, of some or one of the covenants, clauses, or conditions contained in certain articles of agreement, bearing date the , and made and concluded, upon, by, and between the Poor Law Commissioners of the one part, and of the other part, shall happen or take place in the said Court of Queen's Bench, or any other of Her Majesty's courts of record in Ireland, Great Britain, or elsewhere, by acknowledging the action, or otherwise upon a declaration there to be filed against me upon a bond for sterling, bearing date the , conditioned for the true and faithful performance by the said , their executors or administrators, of all and every the covenants, clauses, conditions, and agreements on their part contained and agreed to be performed, fulfilled, and kept, in and by the said therein in part recited and hereinbefore mentioned articles of agreement; and for your, or any of your so doing, this shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge. And know all men by these presents, that I, the said , do hereby for myself, and my heirs, executors, and administrators, authorize you, or any of you, to remise, release, and for ever quit claim unto the said Poor Law Commissioners, and their successors and assigns, all and all manner of error or errors, or misprision of error or errors, or erroneous proceedings whatsoever that are or may be in the said judgment or the proceedings thereupon. Witness my hand and seal the day of 18 .

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of ———.

No. 3892, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 20 February 1844.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of a bond for one surety for fulfilment of contract for erecting fever hospital, and on submitting it to the committee, they are of opinion that as there are two sureties a second bond is requisite. I shall feel obliged by your forwarding another form, that all may be perfected at once.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin. (signed) *Thos. Pentland*, Clerk to Union.

LETTERS in reply to the foregoing.

I.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 21 February 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, requesting to be furnished with another form of contract and bond for erecting the fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse of the Lurgan Union, and to state that the draft from which the copies already sent to you were prepared not being now in the office, the Commissioners are unable to forward you copies by this night's post, but they will do so immediately on the drafts being returned by Mr. Senior, to whom they have been forwarded. If the documents are required to be completed at once, you should cause copies to be made from those already forwarded to you; but the bond may easily be so altered as to render the sureties jointly and severally bound for the amount which may be inserted in the bond.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

II.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 22 February 1844.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th instant, I am now directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copies of the form of contract and bond for the erection of a fever hospital.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 4068, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 22 February 1844.

I AM honoured by the receipt of your communication of yesterday, No. 3892, D/44, in answer to my letter of the 20th instant, wherein I had written for another copy of bond only, as the committee thought the printed one I had received was not designed for two sureties. The contract I have already copied, and the committee have now ordered me to alter the printed form of bond, so that it may embrace the two sureties with the contractor; so that I will not trouble you further on the subject.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

(signed) *Thos. Pentland*, Clerk to Union.

No. 4237.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 22 February 1844.

Ordered, THAT during the present unfortunate pressure of illness, Dr. Bell be instructed to make use of the two probationary wards for convalescent fever patients, and that the clothes of all fever patients, after washing, be baked in the fumigating oven. The building committee met, and selected the site of the new building as marked out by Mr. Forde, the clerk of works, on the workhouse grounds.

No. 6032.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 March 1844.

MR. DOLLING gives notice that on this day fortnight he will move that the salary of the medical attendants be increased 10 *l.* per annum.

Ordered, That chlorate of lime be more freely used in all the wards where fever patients are or have been.

No. 6032.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 27 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Lurgan Union, on the 14th instant, and with reference to the notice of motion to increase the salary of the medical officer of the workhouse, I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners whether the proposed increase is intended to meet the additional duties consequent upon the fever hospital; if so, the Commissioners will not offer any objection.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Lurgan Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 7341.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 March 1844.

Resolved, THAT the Board, contemplating the additional duties of Dr. Bell, consequent on his attendance in the fever hospital, have agreed to increase his salary 10 *l.* per annum from this date.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LURGAN UNION.

No. 7340.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Lurgan, 30 March 1844.

IN reference to your communication of the 27th instant, No. 6032, D/44, I beg leave to inform you that the 10 *l.* to be added to the doctor's salary is intended by the Board to meet the additional duties consequent upon the fever hospital.

* * * * * * * *

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Pentland*, Clerk to Union.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 10 April 1844.

WITH reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, relative to the proposed increase of 10 *l.* per annum in the salary of the medical officer, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to state that they sanction the increase proposed to meet the additional duties devolving upon the medical officer, consequent upon the fever hospital.

I am, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks*, Clerk 1st Class.

To the Clerk to the Guardians
of the Lurgan Union.

MAGHERAFELT UNION.

MAGHERAPELT UNION.

No. 17284.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 September 1843.

Resolved, THAT this meeting is of opinion that it is extremely desirable to convert a portion of the workhouse to the purposes of a fever hospital, and that the male idiot ward, (at present not used) with the addition of one of the upper wards from the male side of the infirmary, would afford the most suitable accommodation.

The entrance from the male yard to be altogether closed and patients admitted from the rear of the building. The ventilation of the apartments referred to, to be improved by substituting large windows, opening on pivots, for those at present in use; and as the person in custody of the ward will be in a most responsible position, and likely subject to infection, that a paid nurse be engaged; also, the arched openings in the idiot wards and at the entrance to passage leading to infirm wards be boarded or built up, leaving a door-way.

Resolved, That a special meeting be convened, to meet on a day to be fixed by Mr. Senior, Assistant Commissioner, to take these subjects into consideration; also whether a rate may be required for the ensuing year, and that the consent of the Commissioners be requested in the meantime to the foregoing resolution.

No. 17284, D/43.

LETTER to Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 27 Sept. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Magherafelt Union on the 21st instant, and with reference to the resolution proposing to convert a portion of the workhouse into a fever hospital, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that no steps may be taken in the matter until Mr. Senior shall again have had an opportunity of conferring with the Board of Guardians on the subject, and more fully explaining the Commissioners' views thereon.

With regard to the temporary arrangements proposed for the accommodation of fever patients, I am to request that you will furnish the Commissioners with more full particulars with regard to the house proposed to be hired, the distance it is from the workhouse, and the terms on which it is taken.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians
of the Magherafelt Union.

No. 17619, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Magherafelt Workhouse, 29 Sept. 1843.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 27th instant with reference to the proposal of the guardians to convert a portion of the workhouse into a fever hospital, and requiring a more minute description of the premises temporarily engaged for such purpose.

I beg

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

I beg therefore to inform you that the house referred to is a small, thatched, one-story building, 30 feet long by 18 wide, the entire of the interior in one apartment, earthen floor, glass windows, considerably mutilated, capable of containing about eight or ten patients, and situated about 200 yards from the workhouse. It had been used for a considerable time past for the present purpose, under the support and management of the landlords of the estate, but latterly they have withdrawn their aid from it. The terms on which they had the house were at the rate of 4 *l.* per annum; and although the guardians have entered into no arrangement with the proprietor, I presume they will have it on the same terms.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert A. Duncan,*
Clerk to Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

No. 17619, D/43.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
7 October 1843.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, and to state that they sanction the hiring of the building selected by the Board of Guardians for the accommodation of fever patients temporarily.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Magherafelt Union.

No. 17671.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 28 September 1843.

Ordered, THAT the persons already admitted, and who may in future be received into the present fever hospital, be introduced into the books as if inmates of the workhouse, and the accounts relating to them kept in the same manner as if patients in the workhouse hospital.

No. 18346.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 October 1843.

IT was moved and seconded, that a portion of the workhouse be converted into a fever hospital, provided the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners could be obtained for such proceeding. It was also moved and seconded, that the consideration of the subject be postponed for six months. After lengthened discussion, the meeting divided, when there appeared a minority for the former, and a majority in favour of the latter motion.

The motion to appropriate part of the workhouse to the purpose referred to was therefore lost.

No. 20193.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 2 November 1843.

READ letter from Edward Senior, esq. Assistant Commissioner, in answer to an inquiry from the Board when he could attend a special meeting, to reconsider the appropriation of part of the workhouse buildings to a fever hospital, stating his willingness to be present at a meeting on 23d instant for that purpose.

Resolved, That a special meeting be convened for the 23d instant, to reconsider the subject of providing a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse, the necessity for an institution of that description becoming more apparent. The clerk to notice the several guardians of the union to this effect.

No. 21651.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 November 1843.

IT having been proposed and seconded, that an hospital for the reception of fever patients be established in connexion with the union, and supported out of the rates thereof, and that part of the workhouse buildings be converted to that purpose, (it was previously stated to the Board that the cost of patients relieved in such fever hospital will be defrayed alone by those electoral divisions to which the patients belong, a communication to that effect having been received from the Assistant Commissioner,)

 Resolved

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

MAGHERAFELT UNION.

Resolved unanimously, That this measure meets with the warmest approval of the Board, and that the apartments for appropriation to this purpose be the male idiot wards, and the half or male side of the infirmary; a wall to be built between the latter and the female portion; that there be a separate entrance and gate, completely without the precincts of the walled-in grounds of the workhouse, and to have no communication with the latter.

The Board is strongly impressed with the necessity of an institution for the relief of fever patients, and from the large extent of the house, built to contain 900, and now having only 170 inmates, the guardians are disposed to avail themselves of the facilities thus afforded for carrying out the object under consideration; convinced, as they are, both from their own experience, and the opinion of the several medical gentlemen whom they have consulted, that there is no danger of infection to be apprehended from the proximity of such fever hospital to the workhouse.

No. 21651, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Workhouse, 23 November 1843.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to inform you, that in accordance with the powers vested in them by the provisions of the 16th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act (6 & 7 Vict. c. 92), they have at their special meeting, held this day, unanimously resolved on converting certain portions of the workhouse buildings to the purposes of a fever hospital, and in pursuance of such resolution, I am further directed to solicit your sanction to the proceeding.

From the great extent of the workhouse buildings, calculated to contain 900, and the number of inmates which are now therein being only 170, and presuming from the experience they have acquired since the opening of the house that there will not be a material increase, the maximum to which relief has been afforded at any one period being 260, the guardians are induced to take advantage of the available resources which the building presents, of affording accommodation to a class which, from the prevalence and fatality of the disease in this neighbourhood, merits their most anxious consideration.

But the guardians are aware, in their zeal to allay the ravages of so melancholy a disease and circumscribe the spread of infection, they must not overlook what might be urged as possessing more paramount importance; namely, their incurring even the most remote contingency of exposing the pauper inmates of the workhouse to danger, from their proximity to so infectious a disease; and also, lest they should incur the risk of exciting popular prejudice against workhouse relief, and thereby prevent the destitute from taking advantage of same, and cause so great an obstacle to the well-working of the system. But from the opinions they have received from several medical gentlemen of acknowledged experience, and from the fact, of which the guardians are cognisant, that fever hospitals frequently adjoin densely peopled buildings, without any evil effects resulting, they arrive at the conclusion that all apprehensions from this source are perfectly groundless, and that prejudice is not likely to be awakened thereby.

The details of the plan which the guardians propose to adopt are: That the apartments to be converted to their purpose shall be the male idiot ward, at present quite unoccupied, and the male side of the infirmary, building a wall of separation between the latter and the female portion, and to close every means of communication between them and the other parts of the building by closing all windows and doors; that a wall shall be built from the public road to the end of the infirmary, in a line with the outside wall of same, and a passage, with a gateway at its junction with the road running along it to the entrance of the hospital, which will, of course, be completely outside the workhouse premises, and no ingress to be allowed to hospital but by that means.

The guardians would therefore earnestly request the Commissioners to extend their approbation to the undertaking, convinced, as they are, that no dangerous consequences can ensue from the plan they intend to adopt, and impressed that much real good, much that is humane, shall be accomplished, and also be a source of economy, as it is frequently the heads of families who become victims to this malady, and, consequently, their numerous dependants are left no other alternative than to become inmates of a workhouse, and an increased burden on the rate-payers.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert A. Duncan*,
Clerk of Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

No. 21651, D/43.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 29 Nov. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, relative to the proposed appropriation of a portion of the workhouse of the Magherafelt Union for the purpose of a fever hospital.

The

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance: those rules are founded on extensive inquiry and long experience, and they feel, therefore, that if, as in the present case, a difference of opinion should arise between themselves and the Board of Guardians on any subject, they are fully warranted in exercising the powers entrusted to them by the Legislature, and declining to sanction the arrangements proposed by the guardians.

The Commissioners are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, which are adverted to in your letter, viz., the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against workhouse relief, are not so groundless as the guardians are led to believe, and they have therefore determined, as a general rule, to withhold their sanction from any arrangement by which the existing workhouse accommodation is to be appropriated as a fever hospital, and accordingly they must decline to sanction such an arrangement in the case of the Magherafelt Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Magherafelt Union.

No. 22433.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 December 1843.

Ordered, THAT the clerk communicate with Edward Senior, esq., Assistant Commissioner, and request to be informed on what day he could make it convenient to attend special meeting of the Board, to take into consideration the Poor Law Commissioners' decision on the fever hospital question, and some other matters of minor importance.

No. 1869, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 25 January 1844.

THE question of the appropriation of a part of the workhouse buildings to the purposes of a fever hospital, and the Poor Law Commissioners' refusal to sanction such appropriation, having been submitted to the Board, Mr. Senior, the Assistant Commissioner, was requested to state to the Poor Law Commissioners the unanimous opinion entertained by the guardians in favour of the project, and their anxious wish that the approval of the Commissioners would be extended thereto.

No. 1872, D/44.

REPORT from Mr. Senior.

Gentlemen,

Moneymore, 27 January 1844.

THE guardians of the Magherafelt Union have requested me to address you on the subject of converting a portion of the workhouse to the purposes of a fever hospital, and to embody in my communication the arguments used at the meeting on Thursday last.

The following is the present plan: To use the infirmary as a fever hospital; all doors and windows opening into the yards being blocked up, and the entrance to be only from the rear.

That the idiot wards, consisting of two stories, be used as the infirmary for males and females respectively.

The guardians urge that the house was built for 900 inmates, though the utmost number it has ever contained (since the period of its being opened, two years ago,) was 260, which number they do not anticipate will increase.

That a very large expenditure having already been incurred in building, the Board would not feel themselves justified in incurring additional outlay.

The guardians are of opinion that neither danger of infection, or apprehension of danger, would be incurred by the adoption of their plan, and, as an illustration of their views, they wish to mention that the fever hospital of Belfast adjoins the Lancasterian school, only separated by a boundary wall.

That in the hospitals in Paris the beds for the fever patients touch those occupied by patients suffering under other diseases.

That the feeling of the guardians is unanimous on this question, and that they pledge themselves to abandon it should any evil result.

I will not repeat the views I personally entertain, as I have done so at some length on previous occasions, but I would suggest that the Commissioners support their decision by forwarding to the guardians any opinion they have received from members of the medical profession.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Senior,*
Assistant Commissioner.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

MAGHERAFELT UNION.

No. 1872, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 31 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have received a communication from their Assistant Commissioner Mr. Senior, stating the desire of the guardians of the Magherafelt Union to use a portion of the existing workhouse as a fever hospital, and setting forth the arguments by which the guardians support their views.

The Commissioners are, as they have already stated to the Board of Guardians, most anxious to meet their wishes where they can with propriety do so, and they regret that a difference of opinion should have arisen on the question of fever accommodation.

The 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act has, however, thrown a considerable degree of responsibility upon the Commissioners in regard to the provision of fever accommodation, and this responsibility they feel that they can only discharge by acting in accordance with the convictions at which they have arrived, after a careful inquiry into the subject. The Commissioners have given the arguments of the guardians, as detailed in Mr. Senior's Report, a very careful consideration, with the view of yielding, if possible, to their wishes in this respect; but they do not see any sufficient ground to alter the conclusion to which they had previously arrived, and which they have already expressed to the Board of Guardians.

Since the Commissioners last wrote to the Board of Guardians on this subject, they have received a copy of a report made by the medical officer to the Board of Guardians of another union on the subject of a similar appropriation of a part of the workhouse for the reception of fever patients: this report is strongly confirmatory of the Commissioners' views, and they have directed that a copy thereof be sent to you herewith for the information of the Board of Guardians; and where the lives of so many persons are involved, all parties must agree in the opinion that doubtful experiments ought not to be permitted.

See Tullamore Union, p. 113, for Copy of Medical Officer's Report, enclosed herewith.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Magherafelt Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

MALLOW UNION.

MALLOW UNION.

No. 16954, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 15 September 1843.

Ordered, THAT 10*s.*, the cost of maintenance in fever hospital of Honora Dinan, be paid.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 11 October 1843.

REFERRING to the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Mallow Union on the 15th ultimo, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to inquire as to the account to which you have carried a payment of 10*s.*, the cost of the support of Honora Dinan in a fever hospital, and to state that the payment should be carried to the maintenance account, and should be charged to the electoral division to which other relief afforded to the pauper is chargeable.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians of the Mallow Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 18869, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Sir, Mallow, 14 October 1843.

IN reply to the Poor Law Commissioners' letter of the 11th instant, No. 16954, inquiring to what account the payment of 10*s.*, ordered to be made on the 15th ultimo, for the cost of the support of Honora Dinan in a fever hospital is carried, I beg leave to state the following facts:

That, previously to the passing of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, Honora Dinan was an inmate of the workhouse, and chargeable to the Mallow electoral division, but was subsequently discharged; that in a week after such discharge, and before the passing of the Act referred to, she came to the hall of the workhouse on a board-day; but being pronounced by the medical officer to be in fever, she was sent by the guardians to a fever hospital, and who promised

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

promised to pay the usual admission fee of 10*s.* for her, there being no fever wards in the workhouse, and I have been directed to pay that sum from my petty cash account.

The guardians are aware that they had not in strictness "at that period" any power to order relief in a fever hospital, but were unwilling to incur the responsibility of refusing the relief thus afforded in this particular instance; and as she had not been regularly entered on the registry, she does not appear on the relief list, consequently cannot be charged in the usual way to an electoral division.

I consider the only course open to me is, to carry the amount to the account under the head, Funerals, Election Law, "and other Expenses," and debit Mallow electoral division therewith, as the guardians have agreed that she should be so charged.

If, under the circumstances, I have not taken the correct view of the case, may I respectfully request the directions of the Poor Law Commissioners thereon.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Barry,*
Clerk to the Board of Guardians.

To Arthur Moore, Esq.
Chief Clerk Poor Law Commissioners.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 17 Oct. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, explanatory of the circumstances regarding the payment of 10*s.* for the support of a poor person, named Honora Dinan, in a fever hospital.

In reference generally to payments out of the union funds for the support in fever hospitals of poor persons labouring under fever, I am to take this opportunity of calling your attention to the present state of the law on the subject, (see the 15th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. cap. 92,) which appears to limit the power of the Board of Guardians to send persons to fever hospitals, under that section, to persons who are at the time inmates of the workhouse, and any person conveyed from thence to be relieved in a fever hospital under that section should first be admitted to the workhouse and registered as an inmate accordingly.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Walmisley,* First Clerk.

The Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Mallow Union.

MIDLETON UNION.

No. 19322, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 17 October 1843.

Resolved, THAT Ellen Shea, who has been in attendance as nurse-tender on fever patients, be retained for that purpose, and allowed 5*s.* per week, commencing the 24th day of August last.

No. 19322, D/1843.

LETTER to Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 1 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Midleton Union on the 17th ultimo, in which the guardians resolve that Ellen Shea, who has been in attendance as nurse-tender on fever patients in the workhouse, be retained for that purpose, at an allowance of 5*s.* per week, commencing the 24th August last.

In reference thereto the Commissioners desire me to state, that they cannot sanction the admission of fever cases into any part of the existing workhouse, and that consequently they cannot sanction the appointment of a nurse to attend upon such patients. As it appears that a fever hospital is within a very short distance of the workhouse, the Commissioners consider the fever patients may be better provided for by making use of the facilities which that establishment will doubtless afford.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore,*
Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians
of the Midleton Union.

No. 20689.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 November 1843.

READ Commissioners' letter, dated 1st November 1843, with reference to a resolution of the Board of Guardians on the 17th ultimo, retaining Ellen Shea as nurse-tender on fever patients, at an allowance of 5*s.* per week, commencing the 24th August last, and stating

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

MIDLETON UNION.

stating the Commissioners could not sanction the admission of fever patients into any part of the existing workhouse, &c. &c.

It was Resolved, That a committee be appointed to arrange for a location for such fever patients as may present themselves, and the result be reported to this Board as early as possible.

No. 4537.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 February 1844.

Resolved, THAT a deputation from this Board be appointed to confer, on Thursday next, with the Rev. Messrs. Jones and Kean, and the secretary of the fever hospital, to arrange with them as to the rent of that house, and of other matters in connexion with that establishment, and that they report thereon on Monday next; the deputation to consist of G. S. Barry, James Adams, Jonas Smith, James Murphy, jun., and B. James Hackett, esqrs.

No. 5822.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 March 1844.

THAT we hereby request to be informed by the Commissioners, whether applicants for admission to the fever hospital now attached to this establishment are to be tested by the Board in the usual way of other applicants; that is, if one or more of a famly are ill, whether the remaining part should be admitted to the workhouse, though not so, nor seeking admission; and also whether applicants known or considered as not destitute are to be admitted to the fever hospital in any case, or under any pretext whatsoever.

No. 5822, D/1844.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Midleton Union on the 11th instant, containing a resolution on the subject of the admission of "patients to the fever hospitals now attached to the establishment;" and before the Commissioners can give a definite reply to the guardians' inquiry, I am to request that they may be more fully informed with respect to the fever hospitals which are stated to be now attached to the workhouse, as the Commissioners are not aware of any arrangement having been made on the subject in the Midleton Union.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Midleton Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 6425.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 18 March 1844.

READ Commissioners' letter of the 16th March 1844, stating that previous to their giving a definitive answer to the guardians' inquiry relative to the admission of patients to the fever hospital attached to this establishment, it will be necessary to be more fully informed of the arrangements made respecting that hospital. Ordered to be laid before the Board on the next day of meeting.

No. 7086.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 25 March 1844.

Report of the Committee for treating with the Trustees of the Fever Hospital.

YOUR committee appointed to meet the trustees of the fever hospital, by your resolution dated 26th of February, met on the 29th idem the Rev. Mr. Keane, the Rev. Mr. Coppinger and Mr. R. S. Coppinger, when it was proposed by the trustees, that in consequence of having allowed the use of the hospital, at the request of the Board of Guardians, since the 14th March 1843, they considered they were entitled to require, on the part of their trust, a rent of 25*l.* per annum, to commence on the 24th August last, the beds, bedding, and all the necessary furniture, &c. therein, which are ample for the use of the house, being at the service of the union as long as may be required.

Your Committee, taking into consideration that the house has been recently erected, at an expense of 700*l.*, is amply provided with all necessaries, is adjoining the workhouse, and does not require any immediate outlay, recommend to your Board to concur in this proposition.

Signed by the Committee.

Dated 23d March 1844.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 5822, D/1844.

MIDLETON UNION.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 30 March 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have again had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Midleton Union on the 11th instant, containing a resolution inquiring whether applicants for admission into the fever hospital, now attached to the workhouse, are to be tested by the guardians, by requiring members of the same family not seeking admission to become inmates of the workhouse.

The Commissioners have also had before them the minutes of the guardians' proceedings on the 25th instant, containing a report from the committee appointed to meet the trustees of the fever hospital.

In reference to the inquiries contained in the former resolution, the Commissioners have directed me to state that poor persons may be properly admitted into any building which may be hired by the guardians for this purpose, under the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, which authorizes them "to provide relief for poor persons affected with fever or other dangerous contagious disease," without requiring members of the same family who may not be suffering under the disease to become inmates of the workhouse.

I am, &c.
(signed) *C. Walmisley*,
First Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Midleton Union.

No. 7654.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 1 April 1844.

READ Commissioners' letter of the 30th ultimo, relative to the admission of fever patients to the fever hospital, now attached to the workhouse, and giving instructions as to admissions.

Proposed by Edward O'Brien, seconded by Thomas Slack, and resolved,

That the recommendation of the committee for treating for the fever hospital be adopted.

MULLINGAR UNION.

No. 19025, D/43.

MULLINGAR UNION.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 October 1843.

LETTER was read from the medical officer, stating that as fever cases were admitted into the house, the guardians ought to make some provision against such infectious complaints, according to the 16th section of the Poor Law Amended Act.

NAVAN UNION.

No. 21193, D/43.

NAVAN UNION.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 15 November 1843.

THE master having reported that the names of Pat. Dolan, Mary Donnelly, and Mary Brien, were taken off the books when they were sent to the fever hospital,

Resolved, That Pat. Dolan, Mary Donnelly, and Mary Brien, who were sent to the fever hospital, and discharged from the master's books, be re-entered therein from the 6th instant.

No. 22384, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 6 December 1843.

THE master reported that Judith Gibney, No. 1108, and Mary Gibney, two paupers, were sent to the fever hospital, the former on the 30th ultimo, and the latter on the 1st instant.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

New Ross Union.

NEW ROSS UNION.

No. 17263.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 20 September 1843.

The Poor Law Amendment Act was then read, in order to take into consideration the way with the greatest facility to carry out the provisions of the said Act.

The following Resolution was then proposed, and carried:—

That the following persons be requested to wait on the committee of the fever hospital to make arrangements with them for the reception of fever patients from this union on Monday next:

Edward M. Chapman,
Edmond Sweetman,
William Hartrick.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 3 October 1843.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the New Ross Union on the 20th instant.

* * * * * *

I am also to request that any arrangement made with the committee of the fever hospital for the reception of fever patients may be reported to the Commissioners before it is finally completed.

I am, &c.

The Clerk, New Ross Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 18710.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 11 October 1843.

Next was read a resolution from the committee of the New Ross Fever Hospital,

Stating, "That having taken into consideration the proposition* made to us by the Poor Law Guardians, we deem it inexpedient to accede to their request, our hospital being insufficient to afford accommodation to a greater extent than our present limits, under any circumstances."

(signed) *John Bryan*, Chairman.

* The proposition was, that the Committee might permit the guardians to send fever patients to the hospital under the Poor Law Amendment Act.

No. 19344.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 18 October 1843.

It was resolved, That the medical officer of the union be requested to confer with the trustees or managers of fever hospitals of the union, to ascertain whether they would consent to receive any fever patients, when the guardians may think it advisable to send to them under the 15th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

No. 21974.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 29 November 1843.

The doctor, in compliance with a resolution of the Board on the 18th ultimo, reported that he conferred with the managers of the fever hospitals in the union, to ascertain whether they would consent to receive fever patients sent to them by the guardians, under the 15th section of the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92; and that they refused to receive fever patients so sent to them from the workhouse.

No. 1372.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 17 January 1844.

It was proposed by Thomas Brehon, esq., and seconded by James Talbot, esq.:—

That the hospital in the workhouse be exclusively appropriated for the accommodation of patients labouring under contagious diseases, and that the patients at present in the hospital be removed to some other convenient portion of the house, in case it should become necessary.—Carried.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
23 January 1844.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the New Ross Union on the 17th instant, containing a resolution, proposing that the hospital of the workhouse be exclusively appropriated for the accommodation of patients labouring under contagious diseases, and that the patients at present in the hospital be removed to some other convenient portion of the workhouse, in case it should become necessary.

The Commissioners presume that this resolution has been adopted by the Board of Guardians with reference to the purposes specified in the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act; and the Board of Guardians will perceive, on referring to that section, that the Commissioners are rendered responsible for the safety of any measures which may be adopted by Boards of Guardians for the accommodation of persons labouring under fever or other dangerous and contagious diseases.

Duly sensible of the weight of this responsibility, the Commissioners have given their best attention to the subject, and they are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against the workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital.

The Commissioners are at the same time sensible of the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions in which no fever accommodation is at present at the disposal of the guardians.

With this view the Commissioners have in other unions sanctioned the erection of an outward upon the workhouse site, at such distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious disease. If the guardians consider it desirable to erect an out-ward for this purpose, under sections 35 and 36 of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with the guardians in carrying out their wishes in the manner which the Board of Guardians may consider most for their own interests.

The Commissioners could furnish three sets of plans, which have been supplied to and adopted by other Boards; and if one of them were selected, the Commissioners would furnish the necessary specifications and working drawings, free of cost; and the guardians could then advertise for tenders for the execution of the work under their own control and supervision, and would probably borrow the money, to be paid off by three or five yearly instalments.

It is obvious that under this arrangement the present staff of officers (with some addition to the salary of the medical attendant) would be sufficient for the management and supervision of the department, with the addition of a good, responsible, paid nurse. The account of provisions supplied to the fever patients would all pass through the regular workhouse books; and although under this arrangement parts of families might be admitted when in fever, and the strict rules applicable to the admission of inmates to other parts of the workhouse might be dispensed with, as regards this class of patients, no inconvenience would practically arise therefrom, inasmuch as the fever hospital would be a distinct building apart from that to which the Commissioners feel it necessary for the public interest to enforce the strict rules laid down for the guidance of all Boards of Guardians regarding admission for general relief.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians,
New Ross Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 2933.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 7 February 1844.

THE doctor reported that there being at present several persons seriously ill in the infirm wards who cannot be accommodated in the hospital in consequence of its becoming necessary to devote a considerable portion of it to the reception of cases of typhus fever, measles, and other contagious diseases, it would be requisite to appoint some of the inmates of the workhouse to act as nurses in those wards, and to allow them lights and a small fire during the night, for the purpose of warming drinks for the sick,

Which was taken into consideration and ordered to be done.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
13 February 1844.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the New Ross Union on the 7th instant, from which the Com-

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

New Ross Union.

missioners perceive that several of the workhouse inmates are labouring under typhus fever, measles, and other contagious diseases.

In reference thereto, the Commissioners have directed me to request the attention of the Board of Guardians to the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, under which the guardians are empowered to hire a house for the reception of persons afflicted with dangerous contagious diseases. It is also competent for the guardians to erect an out-ward for the reception of such persons.

With respect to the treatment of paupers labouring under fever and other contagious diseases, I am to state that the Commissioners are advised that persons so afflicted cannot with due regard to the safety of other inmates be received and treated in the workhouse; and the Commissioners would therefore recommend the guardians to take the matter into their consideration without delay, with a view to providing some accommodation for such persons, either by hiring a house for their reception, or erecting an out-ward on the workhouse site.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, New Ross Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 3527, D/44.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 14 February 1844.

Read letter from the Poor Law Commissioners of the 13th instant, No. 2933, D/. stating that they had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of this union on the 7th instant, stating that several of the workhouse inmates are labouring under typhus fever, measles, and other contagious diseases; and recommending the guardians to take the matter into their consideration without delay, with a view to provide some accommodation for such persons, either by hiring a house for their reception or erecting an out-ward on the workhouse site. On which the clerk was ordered to write to the Poor Law Commissioners for plans of fever wards.

It was then ordered that no more fever cases be admitted into the workhouse until proper accommodation be provided for them.

No. 3526, D/44.

Letter from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, New Ross Union Office, 15 February 1844.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union at their last meeting to request that you will have the goodness to send down to them the most approved plans for a fever ward to be built on the workhouse site, as they have taken into consideration the building of one here immediately.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Barrow*, Clerk of the Union.

The Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

No. 3526, D/44.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 February 1844.

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, intimating the request of the Board of Guardians of the New Ross Union that the Commissioners would furnish them with plans for a fever ward to be built in addition to the workhouse; and in accordance with the guardians' request, the Commissioners have directed me to forward to you, to be laid before the Board, the accompanying plans, which have been prepared by the Commissioners' architect.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

I am, &c.

The Clerk to the Guardians, New Ross Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 4145.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 21 February 1844.

Read letter from the Poor Law Commissioners of the 20th instant, No. 3528, D/44, stating that the Commissioners have sent down three plans for the fever hospital about to be erected on the workhouse site.

On which it was resolved, that the plan No. 1 be adopted by this Board for the fever hospital, and tenders for the erection of the same be received on the 6th of March next. The plan to be seen by application to the clerk to the Board.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 28 Feb. 1844.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the New Ross Union on the 21st instant, containing a resolution proposing to invite tenders for erecting a fever ward in connexion with the workhouse, according to the plan No. 1 forwarded to the Board by the Commissioners.

In reference thereto, I am directed to state that it will be necessary, under the provisions of the Acts for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland, that the contract for the fever ward should be made with the Commissioners, and the tenders for the work, with the resolution of the Board of Guardians adopting some one of them, should be submitted to the Commissioners for approval.

The works can be done, however, under the immediate control and superintendence of the Board of Guardians, and the Commissioners would be glad to be put in possession of the guardians' views upon this subject, as well as with regard to the site for the ward.

The Commissioners also wish to be informed as to the steps which may have been taken by the guardians' directions with respect to the specification and particulars as to the construction of the building, the plan of which they have adopted. If the guardians desire it, the Commissioners' architect will supply the necessary specification and particulars.

You are requested to return the plans rejected by the Board of Guardians, Nos. 2 and 3.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
New Ross Union.

No. 4540, D/44.

Letter from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, New Ross Union Office, 28 February 1844.

I am directed by the Board of Guardians this day to request that you will be pleased to furnish to them the specification, if possible by return of post, relative to the plan No. 1, for a fever hospital, adopted by the Board on the last day of meeting.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Barrow*,
Clerk of the Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Commission Office, Dublin.

No. 4540, D/44.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 1 March 1844.

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, and to request your attention to the letter addressed to you on the 28th ultimo on the subject; and to state that the plan No. 1 should be returned to this office, in order that the necessary detail, working, drawings, and specification may be perfected.

The plan sent shows only the general arrangement, and without the particulars above-mentioned will be insufficient to obtain a proper contract. Any local particulars the guardians may wish to have embodied in the specification should be communicated to the Commissioners.

On receipt of the plans by return of post the Commissioners will forward the documents early next week.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
New Ross Union.

No. 5014, D.

Letter from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, New Ross Union Office, 2 March 1844.

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 1st instant, No. 4540, D/44, I return you the plan for the fever ward No. 1, which was adopted by guardians of this Union on the 21st ultimo, in order that the necessary detail, workings, drawing, and specification may be perfected.

 I am

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

New Ross Union.

I am not aware that the guardians have any local particulars to insert in the specification; the only subject to be settled is, whether at the rear of the present infirmary, or at one of the sides of the building, the fever ward is to be erected.

I also return to your office, according to your request, the rejected plans Nos. 2. and 3.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Barrow*,
Clerk of the Union.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Commission Office, Dublin.

No. 5014, D/44.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 March 1844.

Referring to your letter of the 2d instant, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to return to you herewith the plan of a fever ward, selected by the Board of Guardians of the New Ross Union, with the specification and working drawings which have been prepared by the Commissioners' architect.

See copies in Lurgan Union, pages 81 and 83.

I am at the same time to forward a form of bond and contract to be entered into with the person whose tender may be accepted for the execution of the work.

When the Board of Guardians shall have had the several tenders before them, and shall have selected one, you will be good enough to forward it to this office, together with a copy of any resolution on the subject.

As regards the position of the fever ward, the Commissioners wish to point out that it will be desirable to have it removed as far from the workhouse as the site will permit, and it will be best for the guardians carefully to go over the specification, and insert any particulars of a local nature which circumstances may render necessary.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
New Ross Union.

No. 6593.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 20 March 1844.

Proposed by Thomas Brebon, esq., and seconded by Edward M. Chapman, esq., and resolved:

That a sub-committee be appointed to inspect and select the best site for erecting the intended fever hospital, and to report on the next Board-day, and that the following gentlemen be appointed, viz.—

Dr. Howlett.	Mr. Barner.
Dr. Rossiter.	Mr. Clooney.
Robert Tyndall, Esq.	Mr. Sweetman.
Mr. Galavan.	

Proposed by Mr. Chapman, and seconded by Mr. Hardwick, and resolved:

That the clerk be directed to write to the wardens, to apprise them, that in future no patients affected with fever will be received into the New Ross poorhouse until the fever hospital be erected.

No. 7253.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 27 March 1844.

The report of the committee appointed to select the site for the fever hospital was read, as follows:—

"Your committee having carefully examined the ground attached to the poorhouse, are of opinion that the most eligible site for the hospital is in the centre at the rear of the present building, the back wall of the nurses' apartment being at least 18 feet from the upper bounds ditch, which will leave a space about 140 feet between the front of the hospital and the wall of the present yards.

(signed) "*James Talbot*, Chairman.
Robert Tyndall.
M. Howlett.
James Galavan.
Thomas Rossiter."

It was then ordered that the tenders for the erection of the fever ward be inserted in the Wexford and Kilkenny newspapers, and in the "Dublin General Advertiser," and be received on this day month.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NEWTOWNARDS UNION.

No. 18858, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 September 1843.

MOVED by Mr. Black, seconded by Mr. Dalzell, and resolved:

That application be made forthwith to the Poor Law Commissioners to sanction this Board of Guardians in hiring a house for the reception of destitute fever patients.

No. 16858, D/1843.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 25 Sept. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Newtownards Union on the 13th instant, in which they request the Commissioners to sanction the hiring of a house for destitute fever patients; and the Commissioners desire me to state that they sanction the hiring a house for this purpose, but it will be desirable to have the premises within such convenient distance of the workhouse, that it may be superintended by the officers of the present establishment, with the assistance of a responsible paid nurse.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians, Newtownards Union. (signed) *B. Banks* for *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 17224.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 20 September 1843.

IT having been reported by the medical officer that fever had become prevalent in Newtownards and neighbourhood, and one of the Newtownards wardens having stated that five applications for admission had this week been made to him from persons labouring under fever, it was resolved, that Mr. Black, Mr. Johnston, and Doctor Simpson be directed to hire a house for the reception of pauper fever patients, and that they provide whatever may be necessary till the Commissioners' directions on the subject be received.

No. 17604.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 27 September 1843.

IT was moved, seconded, and resolved, That Mr. Campbell be requested to make a survey, and give in a specification of the probable expense of attaching a suitable fever ward to the workhouse, said estimate to be laid before the guardians on the 4th October next.

(signed) *Robert Brown*, Clerk.

No. 18443.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 4 October 1843.

Resolved, THAT the account of 17 *s.* 8 *d.* for rent and relief of temporary fever hospital be paid, and charged to the union at large.

Resolved, That Mr. M'Kitterick and Mr. Dalzell be added to the committee for hiring a house for pauper fever patients.

No. 18889.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 October 1843.

MOVED by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Miller:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Board of Guardians that a building of two storeys, and capable of accommodation to 60 persons at least, should be erected in the workhouse grounds, and fitted up for the reception of poor fever patients, and that the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to prescribe the regulations necessary for the government thereof.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NEWTOWNARDS UNION.

thereof. The foregoing resolution, which was passed at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians, on Wednesday the 4th October instant, and which was mislaid and neglected to be entered on the minutes of that day's proceedings, be entered in the minutes of this day.

(signed) *Robert Brown*, Clerk.

No. 18689, D/1843.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 17 Oct. 1843.

REFERRING to minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Newtownards Union, on the 11th instant, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to inform you that plans have been prepared and forwarded to Mr. Senior, who will take an early opportunity of laying them before the Board of Guardians.

See copies of Plans at end of this Return.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians, Newtownards Union. (signed) *C. Walmisley*, First Clerk.

No. 19739.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 25 October 1843.

A FEMALE superintendent for the temporary fever hospital having been advertised for, four candidates appeared this day, and were examined as to their qualifications, when it was moved and resolved:

That Margaret Wilson be engaged as superintendent for 12 months, at the salary of 12*l.* per annum, and rations similar to those of the matron. Her salary and duties to commence from this day.

No. 19739, D/1843.

LETTER from the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 30 Oct. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Newtownards Union on the 25th instant; and with reference to the appointment of Margaret Wilson as superintendent of the temporary fever hospital, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that you will inform them what accommodation has been provided for fever cases, and what arrangements have been made in regard thereto.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians, Newtownards Union. (signed) *C. Walmisley*, First Clerk.

No. 19982, D/1843.

COMMUNICATION from Clerk to the Guardians.

THE medical officer wishes to be informed, is it necessary that he should keep a separate set of books for the fever hospital, which is situate a quarter of a mile from the workhouse, or shall he use the workhouse books?

No. 19982, D/1843.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 3 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them a memorandum which was attached to the return of inmates of the workhouse of the Newtownards Union, but which is not signed, containing inquiries as to whether the medical officer should keep a separate set of books for the fever hospital, or whether he should use the workhouse books.

* * * * * *

In reply to the first question, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the medical

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

medical officer should keep separate books at the hospital, in the same form as those used at the workhouse, so that, in fact, it may be considered as one book in two parts.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Newtownards Union, Newtownards.

No. 19989, D/43.

LETTER from Mr. *Senior*, Assistant Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Armagh, 31 October 1843.

WITH reference to the plans forwarded to me for a fever hospital for the Newtownards Union, have the Commissioners prepared any specifications, and can they give me any opinion as to the probable cost of such a building, or has any contract yet been made on a similar plan?

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Senior*.

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

No. 19989, D/43.

LETTER to Mr. *Senior* in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 1 Nov. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated the 31st ultimo, relative to the plans and specifications for the erection of fever hospitals, in connexion with workhouses in Ireland, and I am to inform you that the estimated cost is stated in pencil on each of the plans forwarded to you; viz. the smaller house 310 *l.*, and the larger one 460 *l.*, including fittings, but exclusive of furniture.

It is impossible to prepare any specification which would be generally applicable, and which must vary according to local circumstances; but the Commissioners will cause specifications and working drawings to be prepared for any Board of Guardians that ask for them for this purpose.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To Edward Senior, Esq.
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

No. 20194.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 1 Nov. 1843.

MOVED by Mr. Black, seconded by Mr. Paisley, and resolved: That in all cases of fever, where the residence is doubtful, the several wardens of the union have liberty to send paupers to the fever hospital, paying the expenses of the same, and have them charged to the union at large, until the next weekly meeting of this Board.

No. 20685.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Workhouse, Newtownards, 8 Nov. 1843.

IN reply to your inquiries as to what accommodation has been provided for fever cases, and what arrangements have been made in regard thereto, I am directed by the Board of Guardians to state that a house has been rented about half a mile from the workhouse, and fitted up, 12 new bedsteads provided, and 12 new beds sent from the workhouse, &c., &c. All provisions and necessaries are supplied by the master of the workhouse, and entered in his provisions check; a superintendent and an assistant have been appointed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Brown*, Clerk.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

No. 20697.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 8 November 1843.

Resolved, THAT the assistant in the fever hospital shall receive as wages 3 *s.* per week, and the same rations as the porter, until the next monthly meeting.

(signed) *Robert Brown*, Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NEWTOWNARDS UNION.

No. 21131.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 15 November 1843.

MOVED by W. S. Crawford, esq., seconded by Mr. Boyd, and resolved: That a house having been rented for a year for the purpose of a fever hospital, and the necessary appointments having been made therein for the accommodation of the sick, it is expedient that this Board should postpone their determination, with reference to the erection of new buildings, till they have further experience with regard to the wants of the union, and the means of supplying the necessary accommodation in such manner as will best suit the purposes of the several districts.

Resolved, That the following be the dietary for the fever patients:—For breakfast, tea diet, ⅛ oz. of tea, ½ oz. of sugar, bread 8 oz., sweet milk ¼ pint: supper same as breakfast. Dinner, 3 lbs. potatoes, sweet milk ¼ pint. Full diet, same as tea diet, with an addition of 1 pint broth for dinner; 1½ pint of buttermilk to be allowed to each patient per day on tea diet.

No. 21477, D/43.

REPORT from Mr. *Senior*, Assistant Commissioner.

Gentlemen, Moneymore, 22 November 1843.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the house hired by the guardians of the Newtownards Union for one year, for the reception of fever patients, appeared to me on my recent inspection well adapted for the purpose, being capacious (capable of containing about 30 beds), well ventilated, and admitting of classification of the sexes; the distance from the workhouse, nearly a mile, is of course an objection, but accommodation equally good is not attainable nearer. Under these circumstances I have to recommend that the arrangements made by the guardians be sanctioned by the Commissioners.

The nearest county fever hospital is at Downpatrick, 18 miles distant.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Senior.*

No. 21477, D/1843.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 25 Nov. 1843.

REFERRING to your letter of the 8th instant, detailing the arrangements which have been made for providing fever accommodation in the Newtownards Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to express their approval of the arrangements which have been made.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Newtownards Union. (signed) *Arthur Moore,* Chief Clerk.

No. 21527.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 22 November 1843.

Resolved, THAT the clerk be instructed to issue advertisements throughout the different divisions of the union, announcing that the fever hospital in Newtownards is now ready for the reception of poor patients.

(signed) *Robert Brown,* Clerk.

No. 21896.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 29 November 1843.

MOVED by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. M'Kittrick, and resolved: That it appears to this Board that it is absolutely necessary, for the purpose of enabling the master of the workhouse to keep the necessary accounts, that the medical officer should immediately note in a book, to be kept for that purpose, every admission into, and discharge from, the fever hospital; and that he should also note therein every change of diet, so that the master may have information thereof in time sufficient to send such altered dietary to the fever hospital.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NEWTOWNARDS UNION.

No. 22387.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 6 December 1843.

Resolved, THAT the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to procure a covered carriage on springs, for the conveyance of fever patients to the fever hospital.

Resolved, That attendants at the fever hospital be granted tea diet for breakfast, in lieu of their present allowance.

No. 451, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 3 January 1844.

Resolved, THAT Ellen Cherry be engaged for one month at the fever hospital, at the usual wages of 3 *s.* per week, with rations.

No. 4070, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 21 February 1844.

Resolved, THAT the clerk be directed to have an advertisement prepared, requesting those persons willing to contract for horsing the carriage for fever patients to send in proposals, sealed, to the chairman of the Board on or before the 6th day of March 1844.

(signed) *Robert Brown*, Clerk.

NEWTOWN LIMAVADY UNION.

NEWTOWN LIMAVADY UNION.

No. 23123.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 18 December 1843.

Ordered, THAT the clerk do notice the guardians to attend on Tuesday the 26th, to take into consideration the making of a new rate, and also the propriety of establishing a fever hospital in accordance with the 16th section of the amended Act.

No. 23511.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 December 1843.

THE propriety of converting part of the building into a fever hospital was taken into consideration, when it was resolved that Mr. Cather, Mr. Grier, and Mr. Martin be appointed a committee to communicate with the Poor Law Commissioners relative to the same.

No. 236, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 1 January 1844.

THE committee appointed to communicate with the Poor Law Commissioners relative to appropriating part of the workhouse building into a fever hospital, laid a letter before the Board, which was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be transmitted by the clerk to the Commissioners.

No. 235, D/44.

LETTER from the Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Newtown Limavady Union Workhouse, 1 Jan. 1844.

AT a meeting of the Board of Guardians on Monday the 1st day January 1844, it was unanimously resolved to apply for your sanction to appropriate part of the workhouse buildings for the purpose of a fever hospital. As the number of paupers never exceeded 160, and there being at present only 100 paupers in the house (and so large a portion of the building is unoccupied) being 38 less than this day last year, we trust you will consider the matter, and permit such part of the house as may be thought safest and most convenient to be appropriated for this purpose, as we feel perfectly satisfied there is no danger of infection spreading through the inmates of the house.

By order of the Board,

The Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Robert Ross*, Clerk of the Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NEWTOWN LIMAVADY UNION.

235, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 5 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them your letter of the 1st instant, reporting a resolution of the Board of Guardians to apply for the sanction of the Commissioners to the appropriation of a portion of the workhouse for the purpose of a fever hospital.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with safety, and the rules which they found it necessary to lay down for their guidance; but having maturely considered the subject of fever accommodation which may now be provided under the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, they are assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, viz. the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital; for, although the guardians of the Newtown Limavady Union consider that no risk will attend the suggested arrangement, the Commissioners are advised to the contrary, and whilst even a doubt exists, it would be manifestly imprudent on the part of the Commissioners to consent to an arrangement which might even by possibility endanger the lives of a portion of the inmates of the workhouse.

The Commissioners, however, are quite alive to the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions in which no fever accommodation is at present available.

With this view, the Commissioners have, in other unions similarly circumstanced, sanctioned the erection of an out-ward upon the workhouse site, at such distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever or other dangerous contagious disease. If the guardians consider it desirable to erect an out-ward for this purpose, under sections 35 and 36 of the Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with the guardians in carrying out their wishes in the manner which the Board of Guardians may consider most for the interests of the union.

The Commissioners could furnish three sets of plans which have been supplied to, and adopted by, other Boards; and if one of them were selected, the Commissioners would furnish the necessary working drawings, free of cost, and the guardians could then advertise for tenders for the execution of the work, under their own control, and would probably borrow the money, to be paid off by three or five yearly instalments.

It is obvious, that under this arrangement the present staff of officers (with some addition to the salary of the medical attendant) would be sufficient for the management and supervision of the department, with the addition of a good responsible paid nurse.

The account of provisions supplied to the fever patients would all pass through the regular workhouse books, and although under this arrangement parts of families might be admitted when in fever, and the strict rules applicable to the admission of inmates to other parts of the workhouse might be dispensed with, as regards this class of patients no inconvenience would practically arise therefrom, inasmuch as the fever hospital would be a distinct building, apart from that to which the Commissioners feel it necessary for the public interest to enforce the strict rules laid down for the guidance of all Boards of Guardians regarding admission for general relief.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians, Newtown Limavady Union.

(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 705.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 8 January 1844.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, No. 235, 5 January 1844, in answer to the application for their sanction to appropriate part of the workhouse for a fever hospital:

Resolved, That the consideration of said letter be postponed.

OLDCASTLE UNION.

OLDCASTLE UNION.

No. 13354.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 13 October 1843.

MR. BATTERSBY gave notice, that at the next monthly meeting he will bring under the consideration of the Board the necessity of making provision for fever patients, pursuant to the provisions of the Act, authorizing relief in fever cases.

(signed) *James Johnston*, Clerk of the Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

OLDCASTLE UNION.

No. 20722, D/43.

LETTER from Mr. *John M'Manus.*

Gentlemen, Cormeen, Old Castle, 10 November 1843.

As a member of the Old Castle Board of Guardians I take the liberty of requesting you will have the kindness to inform me, in case a fever hospital is established for the union, will the present medical officer, on getting an increased salary, be eligible, or will it be optional for the guardians to appoint a second properly qualified medical officer? Your answer to this will oblige,

To the Poor Law Commissioners. Your obedient servant, (signed) *John M'Manus.*

LETTER to Mr. *M'Manus* in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 Nov. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to state in reply, that in the event of a fever ward being erected in the neighbourhood of the workhouse of the Old Castle Union, in pursuance of the provisions of the 16th sec. of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, the attendance on the patients received therein will most probably form part of the duty of the medical officer of the workhouse, to whom will consequently be paid any remuneration which he may be deemed to be entitled to for the increased demand on his time and attention.

I have, &c.

To John M'Manus, Esq. Cormeen, Old Castle. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 20846.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 10 November 1843.

MOVED by Mr. M'Manus, seconded by Joseph Lynch, esq., That there is an absolute necessity for making provision for fever patients in connexion with the workhouse establishment, pursuant to the provisions of the Act authorizing relief in fever cases.

An amendment was moved by William Pollard, esq., seconded by James Blakely, esq., That as there are already two fever hospitals in the electoral divisions, those parts of the union which contribute to the support of the abovementioned establishments should not be taxed to support another fever hospital at Old Castle; and therefore the union at large cannot be expected to support one attached to the workhouse.

The amendment was put and carried,—8 voting for it and 5 against it.

(signed) *James Johnston*, Clerk of the Union.

No. 22877.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 14 December 1843.

MR. BATTERSBY gave notice, that on the next monthly meeting he will move, that measures be taken as soon as possible to have a fever hospital attached to the workhouse.

No. 455, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 4 January 1844.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Battersby's motion, relative to the fever hospital, be postponed, as the Board feel the difficulty of coming to any conclusion on the subject until some arrangements be made respecting the several fever hospitals in the union which are at present supported by the grand jury cess.

RATHKEALE UNION.

RATHKEALE UNION.

No. 16754, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 11 September 1843.

MR. BURKE, Assistant Commissioner, read and explained several portions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the 6 & 7 Vict. cap. 92. After some discussion thereon, it was

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to apply to the committee of the Rathkeale Fever Hospital, in order to ascertain on what terms they will receive into the hospital such paupers from the Rathkeale Workhouse, labouring under fever, as may be forwarded by the guardians under the provisions of the 6 & 7 Vict. cap. 92, sec. 15.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

RATHKEALE UNION.

No. 17502, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 25 September 1843.

LETTER from the committee of the Rathkeale Fever Hospital, stating that they were willing to admit patients from the workhouse labouring under fever, at the rate of 1*s.* per day, and part of day, such sum to cover all expenses except cost of removal and coffins.

Note by Clerk to the Guardians.—No orders were then or since made, nor have any further proceedings on the subject been taken.

ROSCREA UNION.

ROSCREA UNION.

No. 20939, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 10 November 1843.

DR. SPAIN reported on the increase of fever in the house, on which,

Colonel Lloyde proposed, Ds. Quale seconded, That the medical officer having reported to the Board that typhus fever prevails in this workhouse, it is the opinion of this Board that such patients as he thinks fit, be removed to the Roscrea Fever Hospital, and that the terms of physician of that institution be accepted of. Passed.

No terms in writing having been communicated to the Board, I requested such from Dr. Kingsley, when sending him the above resolution; you have his letter annexed in reply.

(signed) *E. Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

LETTER referred to.

THE following letter from Dr. Kingsley sets forth the terms on which patients are to be received into the Roscrea Fever Hospital:—

Dear Sir, 11 November 1843.

Upon reference to the last year's report of the above institution, I find that each patient cost 9½*d.* per day, which is very moderate when compared with any other year that has passed by, and this is what we purpose charging the Board of Guardians of this union.

I am, &c.

Edward Wall, Esq. Clerk of the Union. (signed) *Wm. Kingsley.*

No. 70, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 29 December 1843.

DOCTOR reported that fever had again become very general, 14 cases sent to hospital during the week.

No. 70, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 3 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union on the 29th ultimo, containing a report from the medical officer that fever has again become very general, and that 14 cases have been sent to hospital during the week; and in reference to this report the Commissioners have directed me to request that they may be informed of the arrangements which have been made for the accommodation and treatment of inmates of the workhouse labouring under fever.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 313, D/44.

MINUTES of Special Meeting of Guardians, 2 January 1844.

Gentlemen, Roscrea Union Workhouse, 2 January 1844.

THE master of this workhouse being ill of fever, and the medical attendant having deemed it necessary to send him to the fever hospital, the chairman and several of the guardians held a meeting in court-house of Roscrea on this day, the proceedings of which I annex.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

The Honourable F. A. Prittie being called to the chair, and the following guardians present; viz. F. A. Jackson, Henry Scroope, J. S. Smith, M. Maher, D. H. Vaughan: Henry Scroope proposed, J. S. Smith seconded, That in consequence of the master's illness, Patrick Kinna

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Kinna he now appointed to take charge of the workhouse under the matron's directions, until the recovery of Mr. Paund, at a salary of 1 *l.* per week. Passed. ROSCREA UNION.

F. H. Jackson proposed, M. Maher seconded, That the guardians do hold their next meeting in this court-house, and continue to do so till further notice. Passed.

Edward Wall, Clerk of the Union.

Kinna, above appointed, was formerly employed hy the master to keep his books.

No. 313, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 4 Jan. 1844.

I AM directed hy the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt this day of your letter of the 2d instant, communicating the proceedings at a special meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union on that day, held in consequence of the illness of the master of the workhouse from fever. I am to convey the sanction of the Commissioners to the employment of Patrick Kinna, temporarily to perform the duties of master of the workhouse, at a salary of 1 *l.* per week.

The Commissioners would he glad to he informed from time to time of the state of health of the master, and those inmates of the workhouse who are now suffering from fever, and will thank you to forward the medical officer's report thereon, together with the weekly minutes.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 459, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Roscrea Union Workhouse, 5 January 1844.

I ENCLOSE you the medical report in compliance with your request, conveyed in yours of yesterday, No. 313, D/44. I also ohtained a report from the physician of the fever hospital, Henry Powell, where the master and schoolmaster have been removed to. Little hope remains, I much fear, of either of them; the Board met to-day, and took every possihle precautionary step to remove the infection. I will forward the minutes by to-morrow's post.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

Forty-one cases now in Roscrea Fever Hospital, exclusive of master and schoolmaster. Several cases of typhus fever are amongst them.

ENCLOSURES in foregoing.

I.—REPORT of the Physician of the Fever Hospital.

Roscrea Fever Hospital, 5 January 1844.

I HAVE to state, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that Mr. Paund the master, and Mr. Carson the schoolmaster of the workhouse, are hoth in a most dangerous state; the paupers, though lahouring under a very bad type of fever, are not so ill as the two I have mentioned.

Henry Powell,
One of the Physicians to the Fever Hospital.

II.—REPORT of the Medical Officer of the Workhouse.

Workhouse Hospital, 5th January 1844.

In hospital last Report	30
Since admitted	31
Died	3
Discharged	47
Remaining in hospital	11

Of the discharged, 25 have heen sent to the fever hospital since last Board-day (chiefly boys and girls); the remainder are those with chilblains and itch. There is no new case of fever this day.

2d January.—The clothes of fever patients were clandestinely conveyed from the hospital hy paupers into hack-room of laundry.

5th January.—Offensive smell in passage leading to nursery. The hospital-yarda in a very neglected state; nuisance in many parts. Many of the beds, both in hospital and through the house generally, want fresh straw very badly.

(signed) *C. Spain*, Medical Officer.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

ROSCREA UNION.

No. 459, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 8th Jan. 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, informing them of the state of health of the master, schoolmaster, and the paupers of the workhouse of the Roscrea Union, now labouring under fever.

From the report of the medical officer of the workhouse, forwarded with your letter, it appears that irregularity has existed in the management of the workhouse in certain respects, and that there has been a want of attention on the part of some of the officers of the establishment.

The Commissioners presume that the guardians have given directions for remedying the defects complained of by the medical officer.

During the present unfortunate illness of the workhouse master, you will doubtless pay additional personal attention to the management of the workhouse.

The Commissioners will be obliged to you to inform them further with regard to the state of health of the master, schoolmaster, and paupers.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 641, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Roscrea Union Workhouse, 8 January, 1844.

IT is with sincere regret I have to inform you of the death of the master of this workhouse, Mr. Michael Paund, in Roscrea Fever Hospital, during last night. The schoolmaster, Mr. Michael Carson, is still living, but little hopes can be entertained of his recovery. I regret to add that the porter has caught the contagion and labours under fever in his own house, refusing to be removed to hospital; every possible precaution has been adopted in the house by the medical attendant, and it is now tolerably free from fever; three cases, females, have been sent to hospital to-night, not of a very serious character. In reply to yours of the 3d instant, which I should have replied to before, but being daily occupied under the above distressing circumstances, it escaped my notice, I beg to refer you to the Minutes of Board on 10th November, in which the terms of the Roscrea Fever Hospital is set out, in a letter from Dr. Kingsley, which is in fact 9½*d.* per diem, for each patient while in hospital.

None of the pauper patients sent to hospital have died; some have been sent a second time under relapses of the fever; in all, up to the present period, 50 patients (paupers) have been sent to hospital out of the house.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

No. 641, D/44.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reply.

Sir Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 9 Jan. 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, reporting the death of the master of the workhouse of the Roscrea Union, and I am to express the Commissioners' regret at the occurrence.

I am at the same time to thank you for the information contained in your letter respecting the schoolmaster, porter, and paupers still labouring under fever. The Commissioners think that every proper means should be used to induce the porter of the workhouse to submit to removal to the fever hospital, and they trust that on a strong representation being made to him by the medical officer of the injurious results which may be occasioned by his refusal to quit his present apartment, he will see the propriety and necessity of consenting to a removal.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 642, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 5 January 1844.

J. F. ROLLESTON proposed, and J. S. Smith, seconded, That windows be opened in the fever hospital, so as to admit thorough air through the wards; that the sewers and privies be cleansed, and the yard gravelled, and that Mr. Wall be requested to point out the most efficient means to carry out this resolution. Passed.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 710, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Roscrea Union Workhouse, Tuesday, 9 Jan. 1844.

IT is my melancholy duty to inform you of the death of Mr. Michael Carson, schoolmaster of this workhouse, an occurrence which took place this day.

The porter, Mr. Treacy, has been removed to the fever hospital, and is in a very precarious state; the majority of the paupers in the hospital are favourably attacked. The physicians find it necessary to administer stimulants in the first stages with all the pauper patients, of which to the present moment none have died.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

No. 710, D/44.

LETTER from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 10 Jan. 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, informing them of the death of the schoolmaster of the workhouse of the Roscrea Union, from fever; and I am to express the Commissioners' regret at the occurrence. You will have the goodness to continue to report from time to time the state of the porter, and the paupers who are patients in the hospital.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 750, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Roscrea Union Workhouse, 10 January 1844.

I AM in receipt of yours to-day, No. 641, D/44. I am happy to say no casualties have occurred since my last. The porter continues very ill, as well as two aged paupers and two children; the remaining patients are on the recovery, or not seriously attacked.

The weather being damp, additional facilities have been afforded to dry the clothes after washing in the unemployed other rooms. The beds have been refilled with fresh straw. Whitewashing, fumigating, and other precautionary measures have been adopted, which I hope will prevent further contagion; no fever exists in the house to-day.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of Union.

No. 1034, D/44.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Roscrea Union Workhouse, 13 January 1844.

I AM sorry to say it is my duty to report another death among the officers of this union; the porter, Mr. Michael Treacy, has fallen a victim to the prevailing fever; he died during last night in the fever hospital. It is a remarkable circumstance, that of 50 paupers sent to the hospital, but one (an old woman) has died up to this period, while three of the officers have fallen. You have herewith the minutes of yesterday's Board.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

Gentlemen, Sunday, 14 January 1844.

As there is not any post made up for Dublin on Saturday night from this town, I beg to add to the foregoing of yesterday, that no new case of importance has occurred. Two aged persons in hospital are not expected to recover; no change worth notice in the house since my last; order is in some measure restored in the laundry, and I trust by a strict code of discipline it will be maintained.

I am, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Edward Wall*, Clerk of the Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Roscrea Union.

No. 1034, D/44.

Letter from the Commissioners in reply.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 15 Jan. 1844.

I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, reporting the death of the porter of the workhouse of the Roscrea Union.

The Commissioners will feel obliged by a continuance of your reports, with respect to the health of the pauper inmates of the workhouse labouring under fever.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union. I am, &c. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 1632, D/44.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 19 January 1844.

Medical report stated that there was but one case of fever sent to hospital during the week, and that the house was generally free from it at present.

No. 3749, D/44.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 16 February 1844.

Notice by *John O'Meara*.

That a vehicle or vehicles be procured for the purpose of conveying sick paupers to the workhouse from the various districts of the union, and to and from the workhouse to the fever hospital.

No. 3749, D/44.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 22 Feb. 1844.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union on the 16th instant.

* * * * * *

With respect to the notice of motion to provide a vehicle or vehicles for the purpose of conveying poor persons to the workhouse, or from the workhouse to the fever hospital in cases of fever, the Commissioners have directed me to state, that it is the duty of the wardens (see regulations, sect. No. 1, par. 4,) to provide, if necessary, for the conveyance of any destitute poor person to the workhouse, and that the union funds could not legally be expended in purchasing a vehicle or vehicles for such a purpose.

As regards the conveyance of persons labouring under fever from the workhouse to the fever hospital, the guardians will probably not consider, in discussing this proposition, that any sufficient necessity exists for purchasing a vehicle for such a purpose.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union. I am, &c. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 6045, D/44.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 15 March 1844.

On the report and recommendation of the finance committee, the following bills having been duly examined and found to be correct, and in accordance with the several orders, were directed to be paid, and cheques for the several amounts were duly drawn on the treasurer, and signed, namely,

* * * * * *

Establishment Account:

Fever hospital, for maintenance of patients - - - - £.40. 17. 9.

* * * * * *

No. 6045, D/44.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 21 March 1844.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union, on the 15th instant, in which the Commissioners observe that you have charged to the establishment account a sum of 40*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* paid to the fever hospital for the maintenance of patients.

In reference thereto the Commissioners have directed me to state, that the establishment account

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

account cannot legally be charged with the payment of the expenses incurred in maintaining patients in the fever hospital. The expense incurred on account of each person must be ascertained, and be charged to the union at large, or to an electoral division, to whichever the inmate may be or have been chargeable. ROSCREA UNION.

Your attention is requested to the letter addressed to you on the 25th September last, paragraphs 4 and 5, on this subject. *See* page 2.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Roscrea Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

SHILLELAGH UNION.

SHILLELAGH UNION.

No. 19552, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 20 October 1843.

THE clerk is directed to communicate with the committee of the Carnew Fever Hospital, to ascertain on what terms fever patients will be received from the workhouse.

No. 20416, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 3 November 1843.

READ letter from Mr. Goodison, stating fever patients would be received in the Carnew Hospital from the workhouse at a cost of 2*s.* per day.

The master is directed to send all persons afflicted with fever in the house to the Carnew Hospital on those terms.

No. 20416, D/43.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Shillelagh Union on the 3d instant, and have directed me to express their approval of the proposed arrangement to send inmates of the workhouse afflicted with fever to the Carnew Fever Hospital.

I am, however, at the same time to observe, that the sum to be charged per day for each patient appears higher than usual.

In the Roscrea Union the authorities of the fever hospital have agreed to receive inmates of the workhouse for a payment of 9½ *d.* per day; and the Commissioners would recommend the Board of Guardians to reconsider the subject, with a view to a reduction of the proposed rate of payment in the Shillelagh Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Shillelagh Union.

No. 21373, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 17 November 1843.

READ letter from Poor Law Commissioners, approving of the proposed arrangement as to sending inmates of the workhouse afflicted with fever to the Carnew Fever Hospital, but observing that the charge of 2*s.* per day appears much higher than usual; in the Roscrea Union the charge is only 9½ *d.*

The clerk is directed to communicate with the secretary of the Carnew Fever Hospital to the above effect, offering 1*s.* per day.

No. 21763, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 24 November 1843.

READ letter from W. B. Goodison (in reply to clerk's letter) stating there were no available funds in support of the Carnew Fever Hospital, save a grant from the Carnew Charitable Loan Fund, and that the committee are of opinion that the entire expenses incurred by patients from the workhouse should be repaid, but at the same time, as far as possible to meet the wishes of the guardians, the committee has agreed to reduce the charge to 1*s.* 6*d.* per diem.

No. 4250, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 23 February 1844.

THE master reported that pauper Phelim Neil, on the Hacketstown Division, having fever, he had sent him to the Carnew Fever Hospital on Sunday last.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

SHILLELAGH UNION.

No. 4325, D/44.

EXTRACT from Letter from Clerk to the Guardians, 24 February 1844.

THE master requests your advice on the following: The guardians have contracted with the committee of the Carnew Fever Hospital for the reception of poor persons, inmates of the workhouse affected with fever, under 6 & 7 Vict. cap. 92, sec. 16, such contract being since approved by the Commissioners; when a pauper is sent to that hospital, should the master discharge him in the usual way from the admission and discharge book, (form No. 7) or retain him in that book, striking his name out of the relief book (form 10 A) while absent?

EXTRACT from Commissioners' Reply, 1 March 1844.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to state, in reply to your first inquiry, that when a person labouring under fever is sent to the fever hospital, the master should enter him as discharged upon the admission and discharge book immediately after his removal to the hospital, and he will, of course, be removed from the relief list at the same time.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Shillelagh Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

STRABANE UNION.

STRABANE UNION.

No. 23179, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 19 December 1843.

Resolved, THAT application be immediately made to the Poor Law Commissioners, for permission to transfer paupers sick of infectious fever to the fever hospital in Strabane, and further, the Commissioners be requested to inform the Board whether poor persons so afflicted with infectious fever, but not inmates of the poorhouse, might be upon the application for such relief, sent direct to that hospital from any part of the union, by an order of the guardians of the electoral division where such poor person resides.

No. 23179, D/43.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 23 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Strabane Union on the 19th instant, containing a resolution requesting the Commissioners' sanction to the transference of paupers sick of infectious fever, to the fever hospital in Strabane; and also requesting to be informed whether poor persons afflicted with infectious fever, but not inmates of the workhouse, might be sent direct to the fever hospital from any part of the union.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to express their approval of the removal of the fever patients from the workhouse to the fever hospital, and to request that the terms upon which they are to be received into the hospital may be reported to them.

As regards the removal of persons not in the workhouse to the fever hospital, I am to state that the provisions of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, in this respect are expressly limited to removals from the workhouse; and that the only mode in which the guardians can relieve fever patients who are not inmates of the workhouse, is by hiring a house to be used as a fever hospital for the union, or building an out ward on the workhouse grounds for that purpose, either of which courses may, with the consent of the Commissioners, be adopted under the 16th sec. of the Act, and the Commissioners will be glad to learn the guardians' views upon this subject.

I am, &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Strabane Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

TULLAMORE UNION.

TULLAMORE UNION.

No. 19455, D/43.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Office, 21 October 1843.

I HEREWITH transmit minutes of proceedings which took place at a meeting of the Board of Guardians on yesterday. I also forward a report of the medical officer which was laid before the meeting, and ordered to be inserted on the minutes.

I have &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Thomas Ryan*, Clerk of the Union.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 27 October 1843, referred to in the foregoing Letter.

MOVED by Philip Belton, seconded by Henry Manly:

Resolved, That the wards alluded to in the medical officer's report be placed at his disposal for the purposes specified therein; the staff of course will be found among the paupers in the house.

Doctor *Moorhead*'s Report alluded to in Minutes.

To the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the *Tullamore* Union.

Sir,

20 October 1843.

IN compliance with the request of the chairman of the Board, made on the last day of meeting, I have inspected the several apartments of the workhouse, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of them could be made available for the accommodation of paupers at present labouring under chronic disease in hospital, with a view of making suggestions relative to the management of fever patients, and the appropriation of the hospital to their exclusive use.

I have given these subjects every consideration in my power, and after most mature reflection I cannot but regret my inability to give opinions conclusive on them, satisfactory to myself, and unobjectionable to the Board.

The defective nature of my suggestions may, in some measure, be accounted for by a consideration of the innumerable obstacles to the attainment of a perfect system of accommodation for fever patients in the workhouse, under existing circumstances, and to the preservation of the healthy inmates from the consequences of infectious disease.

Under the arrangements contemplated it may be possible to separate those labouring under fever from those affected with other complaints; but it will be quite impossible to prevent infection extending from the diseased to the healthy inmates of the house; for instance, fever is now recommencing, and there are four cases of it in hospital. By removing all the other patients to distant wings of the building they are of course, by so far, removed from the influences of infection; but the frequent intercourse necessarily existing between the interior of the house and the hospital, their contiguity and relative position, will expose the healthy inmates of the house to infection just as much as heretofore. So long as fever is in the house, no matter what part of it, so long no inmate of the house can feel perfect immunity from disease. Fever cannot be circumscribed, or its influences limited by a stone wall; it may be retarded, or accelerated, according to a variety of concomitant causes; the susceptibility of some persons to febrile disease, or their power of resisting it; atmospherical vicissitudes, or epidemical constitutions of the air may conspire in doing so; but so long as you have one case in the house, you cannot calculate upon what part of the house, however remote, the second may occur in. This opinion may be verified by a reference to facts known to many members of this Board.

When fever raged in the hospital last year, a daughter of the schoolmistress took the disease, who had not been in the hospital for many months before; a second daughter also took it who had never at any time been there. The matron took it, who had not been nearer to hospital than her own room; her son took it, who had not been in hospital from the time the disease broke out; and the porter took it in his own lodge, a point the remotest from hospital in all the building.

A variety of causes operating in a district favourable to infectious disease, and inhabited by a densely crowded, half-fed, half-clad population, render this town and locality peculiarly liable to fever; and hence more or less of that disease is at all times to be found here; but at certain seasons of the year it becomes heightened to an alarming extent, spreading wide and far, and numbering amongst its victims both rich and poor. Now, whenever, under the influence of some hidden impetus, it may become quickly disseminated, your wardens will act as they did last year, under precisely similar circumstances—they will recommend persons having fever; for, say they, "If a healthy man be able to support himself and his family by daily labour, and no more, should he get fever he is no longer able to do so; he becomes destitute for the time, and in the absence of a fever hospital, and all other means of obtaining medical relief, what can be done with him if not sent to the workhouse?"

They have recommended such persons to the workhouse, and thereby secured to the applicants certain shelter, and to society, probably, the advantages of many valuable lives. But they will do so again, and as often as the emergencies of the time call for their exercise of a fundamental principle of Christian charity, and this the Board must be prepared to expect.

It may be thought the Board can interfere and prevent the exercise of such power on the part of the wardens; or, being exercised, obstruct their intention in recommending such parties, but such is not the case. A man in fever presents a provisional admission ticket; he is taken in, and immediately sent to hospital; next Board-day he is lying in the height of disease, and the Board is not very anxious to hold any conversation with him; they would not expel him unheard, and humanity would revolt at the idea of turning him out, perhaps to die at the door. He thus enjoys an undisturbed residence in hospital until his case terminates: should it be in death, his friends remove and inter the remains; and if in health, the moment he is discharged from the hospital he obtains his discharge from the house, and so never comes in contact with the Board. All this has occurred over and over again, as the

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

TULLAMORE UNION.

the Board well knows; from which it follows, of a consequence, that whenever fever prevails to any extent without doors, we are sure to have it within; and, when once there, it cannot be limited to this or that division of the building.

Fever being now in the hospital, a question arises, Can anything be done to arrest its progress and prevent its spreading? I think something can be done, which, however defective, may still be better than nothing. The probationary wards are at present occupied by infants and their nurses as day-rooms; the former number but 14, and might be easily accommodated, as they were before, in the bath-rooms during the day. If the males labouring under chronic disease in hospital were transferred to one of these rooms, and the females to the opposite, some advantage would certainly follow; they would be perfectly cut off from the other pauper inmates, enjoy good air, light, and ventilation, have the advantage of a boarded floor and walled-in yard, possessing the usual appurtenances essential to an isolated section of the building.

Additional staff would be necessary to carry out this suggestion, a ward-maid and ward-man for the male side, a nurse-tender and ward-maid for the female side would be requisite, while two females, as at present, would be required to take charge of any fever cases that may be admitted into the infirmary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Michael J. Moorehead.*

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 14 Dec. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration the report made by the medical officer at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Tullamore Union on the 20th October last, on the subject of the accommodation afforded in the workhouse for fever patients. The Commissioners have also had before them the observations of Mr. Muggeridge, Assistant Commissioner, thereon, the papers having been referred to him with a view to his personally communicating with the Board of Guardians. This, however, Mr. Muggeridge has as yet been unable to do, and the Commissioners think it right, therefore, to request the attention of the Board of Guardians to the subject.

The Commissioners fully concur in the very proper view taken by the medical officer of the danger which would result to all the inmates of the workhouse, should any part of the existing building be permanently appropriated for purposes of a fever hospital or ward; and they wish to know to what extent the partial and temporary arrangements suggested by the medical officer have been carried into effect.

The Commissioners have directed me at the same time to forward herewith, for the information of the Board of Guardians, extracts from a communication addressed to another Board of Guardians, expressive of the Commissioners' views on the subject, together with a copy of an enclosure to that letter.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Tullamore Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

EXTRACT above referred to.

"WITH reference to the proposition to convert a portion of the workhouse into fever wards, the Commissioners have directed me to state, that after much deliberation, they have been advised, and are of opinion, that no part of the existing workhouse can, with safety to the health of the inmates generally, be adapted for the reception of fever patients: all will agree, that in a matter of so much importance, it is necessary to act on a safe principle; and the Commissioners have accordingly, in the exercise of the responsibility imposed upon them by the Legislature, declined to sanction any arrangements contemplating an appropriation of part of the present workhouse for the reception of fever patients."

ENCLOSURE referred to in the preceding Letter.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 30 Sept. 1843.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, requesting information as to the mode of bringing into operation that part of the Poor Law Amendment Act which relates to fever hospitals.

The Commissioners presume that your inquiry relates only to the 16th section of the Act; and in reference thereto, I am directed to state, that much will depend upon local circumstances; as, for instance, the existence of a fever hospital in the district, or the want of one; and these circumstances should be carefully considered before making any arrangements.

Generally, however, the Commissioners are now prepared to sanction the providing of all necessary accommodation for persons ill of fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, who, when ill, are unable to pay and provide for the medical assistance and accommodation requisite under such circumstances. A large class of persons may be unable to provide themselves with medical assistance, and the necessary accommodation, when ill (of such dangerous disease), who are able to provide for themselves, or, in other words, who are not destitute when well: for this class the fever accommodation is intended. The guardians would

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

would not be justified in finding medical assistance, or other accommodation, for those who are able to pay for, or otherwise provide it for themselves; but for all poor persons in the union who cannot provide it for themselves, it is clearly the intention of the Legislature to have it provided by the guardians.

Every union, therefore, will ultimately have its own fever hospital for its own use (except such as have a fever hospital at hand); and if the matter is properly and economically managed, it is not anticipated that much, if any, ultimate extra expense upon the rates will be caused by the arrangement, because it is self-evident that vast numbers are rendered destitute by the fatal effects of fever and other dangerous contagious disease, who, if fever patients are properly provided for, and the disease thus kept from spreading, would not be rendered destitute. If a man dies of fever, his family often becomes destitute: if a widow dies of fever, the children become destitute.

The expense will, however, depend upon proper arrangement; and the ultimate arrangements of the guardians, and the cost of such arrangements, will very much depend upon the mode in which they commence. It is clear that no part of the existing workhouses can safely be permitted to be converted into fever wards. The Commissioners are advised, that a due regard to the health of the inmates must prevent them from sanctioning any alteration of the present buildings for the purpose; and all will agree that, in a matter of so much importance, it is necessary to act upon safe principle.

If an out-ward of the workhouse was erected at a little distance from the present building, but upon the workhouse site, it might then be thus appropriated; and in such case the establishment might be managed by the officers of the workhouse, with the assistance, of course, of a good and properly paid responsible nurse.

It is also certain that in this case a proper check could be had over the provisions and supplies requisite in such an establishment; but if a house is hired outside, other paid officers must be appointed for its management and control.

A plain building, two storeys high, with windows on each side for ventilation, might be erected at little cost; and in the end it will be far more economical and satisfactory than any other course which can be adopted.

Of course in the admission of fever patients, the strict rules which govern admission into the workhouse would not be enforced, or indeed be applicable or necessary; wives without husbands—children without parents—and in fact all who are ill of fever and unable to provide or be provided for otherwise, may be received when in fever.

Before, however, the guardians come to any determination as to the course which they may wish to adopt, they would do well to take an opportunity of conferring with the Assistant Commissioner on the subject.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 22970, D/43.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 15 December 1843.

NOTICE of motion by Thomas O'Flanagan:

That the establishment of a fever hospital in connexion with the workhouse, be taken into consideration at the meeting of the Board on the 29th December instant.

LETTER from Clerk to the Guardians.

Gentlemen, Tullamore Union Office, 16 Dec. 1843.

I HEREWITH transmit minutes of proceedings which took place at a meeting of the Board of guardians of this union on yesterday * * * * * *

I am directed by the Board to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, 19455, D, with enclosures, relating to the report of the medical officer on the 20th October last. I annex a copy of the medical officer's report made to the Board on the 25th November, in answer to that part of your letter which requires to know to what extent the partial and temporary arrangements suggested by the medical officer have been carried into effect.

I am &c.
To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Thomas Ryan*, Clerk of the Union.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing Letter.

Medical Officer's Report, 25 November 1843.

ON the 20th ultimo a medical report was addressed to the chairman, suggesting the propriety of making certain alterations in the hospital department, and of removing the patients then labouring under chronic disease in the infirmary to a distant wing of the building, with a view of preventing the spread of fever. These suggestions were adopted by the Board, and subsequently carried into effect. We have no more fever; there is not now (Nov. 29th) a single case of that disease in the house. I did not then think the alterations suggested would have perfectly arrested the extension of the malady, nor do I now think the

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

TULLAMORE UNION.

the practical effect given to them has exclusively done so. The mild type of the fever this year, contrasted with its former truly adynamic character; the paucity of the inmates now, compared with the numbers in the house last year, and the better system of ventilation (sometimes carried to excess for want of glass), of cleanliness, general management and discipline now prevailing, may have been instrumental in limiting the disease beyond what would or could occur under less favourable circumstances; but still some good may have resulted from the arrangements alluded to; at all events the abatement of fever coincided with their operation.

I feel bound to state this for the gratification of those members of the Board who, influenced by humane feelings, received the original report with deliberate seriousness, and acted on it with a promptness commensurate with its importance.

(signed) *M. J. Moorhead.*

No. 78, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 29 December 1843.

PROPOSED by George Garvey, seconded by Thomas P. O'Flanagan:

Resolved, That the present hospital in this workhouse be allocated to the reception of destitute fever applicants in this union, and that the following guardians do constitute a committee to carry out this resolution, viz.: George Garvey, Francis Berry, Thomas O'Flanagan, James Dillon, and the Tullamore guardians.—Passed unanimously.

Moved by James Dillon, seconded by J. H. Walsh:

Resolved, That the Committee for carrying out the allocation of the present hospital of the workhouse for fever patients, do meet in the Board-room at two o'clock to-morrow, and any other subsequent day; three to form a quorum.—Passed unanimously.

Notice of motion by Thomas O'Flanagan:

That the resolution excluding the admission of fever patients from this workhouse be rescinded.

LETTER to the Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 4 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Tullamore Union on the 29th ultimo, containing a resolution to the effect that the workhouse hospital be used for the reception of poor persons labouring under fever in the union.

In reference to this resolution, the Commissioners have directed me to request the attention of the Board of Guardians to the letter addressed to them on the subject of the provision for fever patients on the 14th ultimo.

The Commissioners are most anxious to meet the views of the Board of Guardians in all cases where they can do so consistently with safety, and the rules which they have found it necessary to lay down for their guidance.

The Commissioners are, however, assured that the objections to the conversion of a part of the existing workhouse into a fever hospital, namely, the danger of spreading contagion among the inmates of the workhouse, and the risk of exciting popular prejudice against the workhouse relief, are of sufficient importance to warrant them in withholding their sanction from any arrangement by which it is contemplated that a portion of the existing workhouse accommodation should be appropriated as a fever hospital.

The Commissioners, however, are quite alive to the necessity which exists for providing suitable accommodation for the reception of fever patients in those unions in which no fever accommodation is at present available.

With this view the Commissioners have, in other unions similarly circumstanced, sanctioned the erection of an out-ward upon the workhouse site, at such distance from the present building as will prevent the danger and inconvenience attendant upon the appropriation of a portion of the existing workhouse to the reception of those labouring under fever, or other dangerous contagious disease.

If the guardians consider it desirable to erect an out-ward for this purpose, under sections 35 and 36 of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners will be glad to co-operate with the guardians in carrying out their wishes, in the manner which the Board of Guardians may consider most for their own interests.

The Commissioners could furnish three sets of plans, which have been supplied to and adopted by other Boards; and if one of them were selected, the Commissioners would furnish the necessary specifications and working drawings, free of cost, and a contract could be made for the execution of the work, under proper control and supervision; the amount to be borrowed for the purpose being repaid by yearly instalments.

The Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Tullamore Union.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Arthur Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 551.

TULLAMORE UNION.

EXTRACT from the Guardians' Minutes, 5 January 1844.

THE committee appointed at last meeting to carry out a resolution to allocate the hospital, for the reception of fever patients, having laid their report before the Board,

Moved by George Garvey, seconded by Samuel Robinson:

Resolved, That the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the best means of allocating the hospital, for the reception of fever patients exclusively, be now entered on the minutes.—Passed unanimously.

The committee appointed on the 29th ultimo, pursuant to a resolution of the Board, to report on the allocation of the hospital for the reception of fever patients exclusively, having communicated with the medical officer, and received his suggestions, are of opinion,

1st. That no fever patient should be allowed to enter through the front of the workhouse.

2d. That all fever patients be sent round the building to the back entrance of the hospital yards, and be admitted through them.

3d. That direct communication with hospital ward and front building be cut off by permanently closing the doors and windows on the eastern aspect of infirmary.

4th. That entrance from male and female hospital yards be made by placing a door in each of the two walls which now separate them; the entrance to be made male side, through the lunatic ward yard.

5th. That chronic patients at present in hospital be submitted to the same rules as were recommended in the medical officer's report of the 20th October last.

6th. That the entrances mentioned in para. 4 will facilitate communication from the front buildings to infirmary, at the same time preventing direct currents of air passing between them.

7th. That the present unoccupied lunatic apartments be appropriated to the use of the under-staff of hospital, for domestic and other purposes, if required.

8th. That a sufficient supply of water in hospital yard would enable washing, cooking, and other duties to be performed there, quite independent of the front part of the building.

9th. That for an outlay of about 6*l.* water could be conveyed into those yards from one of the present pipes; and for an outlay of 5*l.* more all the other alterations suggested would be effected.

Proposed by Thomas O'Flanagan, seconded by Samuel Robinson:

Resolved, That the removal of the sick hospital patients to the probationary wards be at once adopted, to prevent the spread of fever, with which four patients in the hospital are now afflicted; the medical officer deeming such necessary, to prevent the spread of the disease.—Passed unanimously.

LETTER to the Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 18 Jan. 1844.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Tullamore Union on the 5th instant, containing a resolution to enter on the minutes a report of the committee appointed "to carry out a resolution to allocate the hospital for the reception of fever patients," and a resolution for the removal of the sick hospital patients to the probationary wards, to prevent the spread of fever, with which four patients in the hospital are now afflicted.

The precautionary measure taken in pursuance of the last resolution seems to be very judicious, inasmuch as it is perhaps the only means at present in the guardians' power to prevent the spread of the disease.

With regard to the former resolution, however, from which the Commissioners are led to conclude that the Board of Guardians contemplate making a permanent arrangement by which the hospital of the workhouse may be converted into a fever ward, under the 16th sect. of the 6th & 7th Vict. c. 92, the Commissioners are desirous of drawing the attention of the guardians to the report of the medical officer of the workhouse, dated the 20th October last, in which the following paragraphs appear, namely:—

"The defective nature of my suggestions may in some measure be accounted for by a consideration of the innumerable obstacles to the attainment of a perfect system of accommodation for fever patients in the workhouse, under existing circumstances, and to the preservation of the healthy inmates from the consequences of infectious disease. Under the arrangements contemplated, it may be possible to separate those labouring under fever from those afflicted with other complaints; but it will be quite impossible to prevent infection extending from the diseased to the healthy inmates of the house.

"So long as fever is in the house, no matter what part of it, so long no inmate of the house can feel perfect immunity from disease. Fever cannot be circumscribed, or its influences limited by a stone wall; it may be retarded or accelerated according to a variety of concomitant causes; the susceptibility of some persons to febrile disease, or their power of resisting it; atmospherical vicissitudes, or epidemical constitutions of the air, may conspire in doing so; but so long as you have one case in the house, you cannot calculate upon what part of the house, however remote, the second may occur in; this opinion may be verified by a reference to facts known to many members of this Board."

The medical officer then details the causes which will generally occasion a considerable influx of persons labouring under fever to the workhouse, and states, "that whenever fever prevails

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

TULLAMORE UNION.

prevails to any extent without doors, we are sure to have it within, and when once there, it cannot be limited to this or that division of the building."

By the 16th sect. of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, it is enacted, that "it shall be lawful for the guardians of any union, if they shall think fit, subject to such regulations as the Poor Law Commissioners may from time to time prescribe, to provide relief for poor persons affected with fever, or other dangerous contagious disease, in a house or houses hired or rented for the reception and medical treatment of such poor persons during their illness and convalescence, or by appropriating for that purpose such portion or portions of the Union workhouses as the guardians, with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners, shall consider it safe and convenient to be so applied."

The Legislature has thus cast upon the Commissioners the responsibility of giving their consent to, or withholding their consent from, the appropriation of any portion of the workhouse to the purposes of the section above cited. Impressed with a due sense of this responsibility the Commissioners have, after a careful consideration of the subject, declined giving their consent to any arrangement which has hitherto been proposed to them, by which any portion of the existing workhouse building shall be permanently converted into a fever ward or hospital.

The Commissioners have already, in their letters of the 14th ultimo and 4th instant, detailed their views with respect to the arrangements which may be made by Boards of Guardians for the relief of persons labouring under fever, and they would request the attention of the Board of Guardians of the Tullamore Union again to those letters.

The general views of the Commissioners with respect to the danger and inexpediency of appropriating any part of the workhouse for the reception of fever patients, are fully borne out in the present case by the report of the medical officer of the Tullamore Union; and the Commissioners direct me to state, that, with every wish to meet the views of the Board of Guardians, they feel that in this instance they cannot do so consistently with their duty, and the Commissioners hereby decline to give the consent which is necessary on their part, under the section above quoted, to the alterations proposed to be effected for the purpose of converting the present hospital of the Tullamore Union workhouse into a fever ward, and to the charging of any expenses so proposed to be incurred, upon the poor-rates of the union.

I am &c.

To the Clerk to the Guardians,
Tullamore Union.

(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

No. 1051.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 January 1844.

IN pursuance of notice of motion, Thomas O'Flanagan moved, seconded by Samuel Robinson:

Resolved, That the resolution excluding the admission of fever patients into the hospital of the workhouse, on the minutes of proceedings of the 10th November 1843, be rescinded, and that same be notified to the wardens.—Passed.

No. 1697.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 January 1844.

MOVED by James Dillon, seconded by Henry Manly:

Resolved, That the communication from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 18th January, on the subject of appropriating the hospital of this house to a fever hospital, be entered on the minutes of this day; and that when the establishment of one in connexion with this house be again agitated, 14 days' notice be given, of which the body shall have timely notice.

WATERFORD UNION.

WATERFORD UNION.

No. 18754, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 12 October 1843.

NOTICE of motion by Doctor Mackessy for Thursday, 28 October:

To move that a committee of this Board be appointed to confer with the committee of the fever hospital of the county and city, to make arrangements for the admission of fever patients from the county of Kilkenny portion of the Waterford Union into that institution.

No. 19780, D/44.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 26 October 1843.

MOVED by Doctor Mackessy, seconded by John Hacket, and

Resolved, That a committee of this Board be appointed, to confer with the committee of the fever hospital of the county and city, to make arrangements for the admission of fever patients from the county of Kilkenny portion of the Waterford Union into that institution.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

No. 20208, D/43.

WATERFORD UNION.

EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes, 2 November 1843.

MOVED by Pierce N. Barron, seconded by Edmond J. Power, and
Resolved, That the following Report be received:

October 30th, 1843.

Meeting of Committee of Poor Law Guardians, Waterford Union, appointed to confer with the Committee of the Waterford Fever Hospital, the Mayor in the chair.

Your Committee submit the following resolutions, passed at a meeting of the Waterford Fever Hospital, and recommend that this arrangement be acceded to.

At a meeting of the regulating committee of the fever hospital for the county, and the county of the city, of Waterford Fever Hospital, held on Friday October 27th, 1843, Benjamin Moore, Esq. in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That the proposition of the Poor Law Guardians, made through Dr. Mackessy, to open this hospital for the reception of fever patients and others in contagious disease from the county of Kilkenny portion of the Waterford Union, be agreed to, provided the expenses incurred by such patients be paid to the hospital, charging for each patient according to an average to be struck either for one or five years.

(signed) "*Benjamin Moore*, Chairman."

The Board having ascertained that there is no hospital open within any available distance, for the reception of patients affected with fever or other contagious disease, residing in the county of Kilkenny portion of this union, comprising the following electoral divisions:—Rathpatrick, Kilcallum, Dunket, Kilkeasy, Kilbeacon, Kilbride, Killahy, Kilmacou, Aglish, Rathkyran;

Moved by Dr. Mackessy, seconded by Captain Newport, and

Resolved, That the master is empowered to admit provisionally from the above-named electoral divisions, on the recommendation of a member of this Board, of a parochial clergyman of the district, or of a resident medical practitioner, all patients affected with fever or other contagious disease, and to have them immediately transmitted to the Waterford Fever Hospital, reporting the admissions to the visitor and the Board of Guardians.

Moved by John Hacket, seconded by Pierce N. Barron, and

Resolved, That should any patient be thus recommended for admission without a medical certificate, the master is directed to send immediately for the physician of this institution, that the case may be investigated without delay, and forwarded to the fever hospital if necessary.

Moved by Mr. E. J. Power, seconded by Robinson Thomas, and

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to communicate the above resolutions to the clergymen and medical practitioners residing in the county of Kilkenny electoral divisions of this union, and to request that, when practicable, a medical certificate shall be forwarded with each patient recommended for admission to this poorhouse.

No. 20208, D/43.

LETTER to the Board of Guardians in reference to the foregoing.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 8 Nov. 1843.

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Waterford Union on the 2d instant, and with reference to the resolution respecting the proposed arrangement for the admission of poor persons labouring under fever to the County Waterford Fever Hospital, the Commissioners have directed me to state, that they approve the measures adopted by the guardians for the admission of fever patients into the County Waterford Fever Hospital, from the county Kilkenny portion of the union; the Commissioners presume that patients will be admitted from the county of Waterford portion of the union also, although not expressed in the resolution.

The Commissioners perceive that the proceedings adopted by the guardians are taken under the 15th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act; and that section, the guardians are aware, applies solely to persons previously admitted as inmates of the workhouse.

This leads the Commissioners to observe upon that part of the resolution which specifies certain parties as having authority to recommend persons for provisional admission by the master of the workhouse; and which appears to the Commissioners to be at variance with the present regulations prescribed by them for the admission of persons as inmates of the workhouse, a reference to which will show that orders of admission to the workhouse can be granted only by the parties designated in the 1st article of the workhouse regulations.

To this point, therefore, the Commissioners wish to call the attention of the guardians, with a view to their reconsideration of the matter.

I am &c.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Waterford Union. (signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

WEXFORD UNION.

No. 20437, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 4 November 1843.

In pursuance of the 6th & 7th Vict. c. 92. s. 15, it was resolved, on the motion of Captain Richards, seconded by Mr. Sparrow:

That such paupers as may contract fever in the workhouse, be sent to the fever hospital, and that the Board will pay for their maintenance, &c. therein.

No. 20437, D43.

Letter to the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

Sir, Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 16 Nov. 1843.

The Poor Law Commissioners have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Wexford Union on the 4th instant, containing a resolution to send such paupers as may contract fever in the workhouse, to the fever hospital, and the Commissioners have directed me to express their approval of the course proposed to be pursued.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners would be glad to be informed of the rate of payment to be made to the authorities of the fever hospital for each patient sent by the Board of Guardians.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Moore*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Wexford Union.

No. 21385, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 18 November 1843.

Read a letter from the Commissioners, expressing their approval of a resolution passed at a meeting of the guardians on the 4th instant, to send such paupers as may contract fever in the workhouse, to the fever hospital; and also expressing a wish to be informed what is the rate of payment for a person sent from the workhouse to the fever hospital.

The Board will inform themselves of the average cost of a patient in the fever hospital for one year, and will, at their earliest convenience, give the Commissioners the required information.

No. 22662, D/43.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, 9 December 1843.

On the report and recommendation of the finance committee, the following bills, having been duly examined, and found to be correct, and in accordance with the several orders, were directed to be paid, and cheques for the several amounts were duly drawn on the treasurer, and signed, namely—

* * * * * *

Maintenance Account.

	£.	s.	d.
Nathaniel Sparrow, treasurer of the fever hospital, for paupers sent there, the expense of each pauper to be charged to their respective electoral divisions, or to the union at large - - - - - - - -	4	19	–

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

III.

RETURN of the Number of Fever Patients Relieved under the 15th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, and of the Number Relieved under the 16th Clause, up to the 1st day of March 1844; and of the Number of Houses hired for the Reception of Poor Persons in Fever under the 16th Clause of the said Act, and the Names of the Unions in which they have been hired.—(Abstracted from Returns made by Clerks of Unions.)

UNIONS.	Number of Fever Patients Relieved under the 15th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, up to the 1st day of Mar. 1844.	Number of Fever Patients Relieved under the 16th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, up to the 1st day of Mar. 1844.	Number of Houses Hired for the Reception of Poor Persons in Fever, under the 16th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.	OBSERVATIONS.
Abbeyleix	-	194	1	-- Hired a fever hospital, new built by the Abbeyleix Loan Fund, in the next field to the workhouse, for the accommodation of 50 patients.
Aatrim	—	—	—	
Ardee	-	28	2	-- These are two adjoining cabins, rented at the rate of 5 *l.* 12 *s.* per annum.
Armagh	—	—	—	
Athlone	—	—	—	
Athy	-	-	-	Adjacent fever hospital relieves all cases of fever.
Bailieborough	—	—	—	
Ballina	-	-	-	-- There has been a small fever hospital in Ballina, and persons seeking admission to the workhouse here are examined by the medical attendant; and if any symptoms of fever appear, the patient is not admitted, but referred to some of the supporters of this fever hospital, who gives them a ticket of admission thereto.
Ballinasloe	—	—	—	
Ballinrobe	—	—	—	
Ballycastle	—	—	—	
Ballymena	—	—	—	
Ballymoney	-	1	—	
Ballashannon	—	—	—	
Balrothery	-	-	-	No fever patients relieved but in the hospital of the workhouse.
Baltinglass	—	—	—	
Banbridge	—	—	—	
Bandon	—	—	—	
Bantry	—	—	—	
Belfast	-	401	-	-- The guardians fitted up sheds in the rear of the workhouse building as fever wards, and occupied the new nursery building for same.
Boyle	—	—	—	
Cahirciveen	—	—	—	
Callan	—	—	—	
Carlow	—	—	—	
Carrickmacross	-	6	-	-- The baronial fever hospital has been given gratuitously by the trustees of that house, for the temporary reception of pauper fever cases.
Carrick-on-Shannon	—	—	—	
Carrick-on-Suir	16	—	—	
Cashel	—	—	—	
Castlebar	—	—	—	
Castlehlayney	—	—	—	
Castlederg	—	—	—	
Castlerea	—	—	—	
Cavan	—	—	—	
Celbridge	-	-	-	-- There is an excellent fever hospital in Celbridge, where all paupers are admitted upon the recommendation of subscribers.
Clifden	—	—	—	
Clogheen	—	—	—	
Clogher	—	—	—	
Clones	30	-	-	-- The 30 paupers were sent to the Clones Fever Hospital by order of the doctor. The guardians passed no resolutions on the subject, the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, clause 16, having provided for their being so relieved.
Clonmel	—	—	—	
Coleraine	—	—	—	
Cookstown	—	—	—	
Cootehill	—	—	—	
Cork	-	-	-	-- We have had very little fever in the workhouse since the passing of the above Act; and these cases were attended to in wards appropriated to them in hospital of the workhouse.
Donegal	-	-	-	-- There have been 10 or 11 cases of fever in workhouse during the above period.
Downpatrick	—	—	—	
Drogheda	—	—	—	
Dublin (North)	-	-	-	-- Four fever patients have been sent from the workhouse to the Hardwick Fever Hospital since the passing of the Act; but without reference to the Act, as no agreement was made as to cost of relief, or expense incurred in the removal.
Dublin (South)	-	-	-	-- On pauper inmates being attacked with fever, a notification is forwarded to Cork-street Fever Hospital to that effect, and a medical officer attends from that establishment, on whose certificate a carriage is sent for the patient, and he or she is retained in Cork-street until convalescent. That establishment has made no charge against guardians for same. There were nine paupers taken to Cork-street Hospital from 24th August 1843 to 1st March 1844. One of the patients died in the Whitworth Hospital.
Dundalk	—	—	—	
Dunfanaghy	—	—	—	
Dungannon	—	—	—	
Dungarvan	—	—	—	
Dunmanway	-	-	-	
Dunshaughlin	2	5	—	
Edenderry	-	-	-	-- Fever patients in workhouse were treated in the infirmary of the workhouse by the medical attendant. Cost of conveying 13 patients to fever hospital, 4 *s.* 6 *d.*
Ennis	13	-	-	
Enniscorthy	—	—	—	
Enniskillen	—	—	—	
Ennistymoe	—	—	—	
Fermoy	-	12	—	
Galway	-	-	-	There is a fever hospital, supported by town and county of Galway.
Glenties	—	—	—	
Gorey	1	1	-	Gorey Fever Hospital, at 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per week for each pauper.
Gort	-	12	-	-- There being no provision made under the 16th clause of the Act, six of these cases were treated in the idiot wards; the remaining six in the infirmary. All were taken off the streets in bad typhus fever.
Gortin	—	—	—	
Granard	-	16	-	-- From the 29th of September 1842 to the 24th August 1843, there were 40 cases of fever in the house.
Inishowen	—	—	—	
Kanturk	—	—	—	
Kells	—	—	—	
Kenmare	—	—	—	

(*continued*)

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

UNIONS.	Number of Fever Patients Relieved under the 15th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, up to the 1st day of Mar. 1844.	Number of Fever Patients Relieved under the 16th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92, up to the 1st day of Mar. 1844.	Number of Houses Hired for the Reception of Poor Persons in Fever, under the 16th Clause of the Amended Poor Law Act, 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.	OBSERVATIONS.
Kilkeel	—	—	—	
Kilkenny	-	-	-	-- The fever cases in the workhouse have been attended to in a portion of the house adapted for that purpose.
Killarney	—	—	—	
Kilmallock	—	—	—	
Kilrush	9	—	—	
Kinsale	-	-	-	-- There is a fever hospital in the town, in which fever patients are treated.
Lerne	—	—	—	
Letterkenny	—	—	—	
Limerick	-	-	-	-- Fever has appeared among the inmates, who have been treated in one of the stores of the workhouse.
Lisburn	3	13*	-	-- *These were placed in wards in hospital fitted up for the occasion. Doctor recommends a fever hospital to be built, and attached to the house in case of many cases of fever occurring, as the hospital in the town is too small to admit many.
Lismore	—	—	—	
Lisnaskea	—	—	—	
Listowel	—	—	—	
Londonderry	-	-	-	-- There being a fever hospital at Londonderry, it was not found necessary that the union should make any accommodation for that description of patients.
Longford	—	—	—	
Loughrea	19	-	-	-- The medical attendant did not include only such as were in hospital eight days or upwards.
Lowtherstown	—	—	—	
Lurgan	-	128	-	-- A ward for fever patients now building on the workhouse grounds. The idiot wards were prepared for fever patients, and latterly, when convalescent, they were removed to the probationary wards in front building of workhouse; this was the only place they could be put, and was objected to by some of the guardians as being too near the Board-room.
Macroom	-	-	-	-- Four persons in fever were relieved in the workhouse hospital in the time specified, but they entered the house in the ordinary mode in which all other paupers do.
Magherafelt	-	7	1	A small thatched cabin, convenient to the workhouse.
Mallow	—	—	—	
Manor Hamilton	—	—	—	
Midleton	1	23	1	-- From the proximity of the fever hospital to the workhouse (about 200 yards), no expense has been or is likely to be incurred in conveying patients.
Milford	—	—	—	
Mohill	-	12	-	They were supported and attended to in the workhouse.
Monaghan	—	—	—	
Mountmelick	—	—	—	
Mullingar	—	—	—	
Naas	—	—	—	
Navan	8	-	-	-- The fever hospital of the county is adjoining the workhouse, and the clerk having applied to governors to know the charge of maintenance, received for reply, that there would be no charge made.
Nenagh	-	30	-	-- All of these were treated in a part of the workhouse infirmary set apart by the medical attendant for the purpose.
Newcastle	17	—	—	
New Ross	-	-	-	-- There have been a number of fever patients relieved in the workhouse in the usual manner, without any reference whatever to the above-recited Act.
Newry	—	—	—	
Newtownards	-	54	1	-- A house hired at 20 *l.* per annum, fitted up at the expense of the union; a superintendent and two assistants appointed.
Newtown Limavady	—	—	—	
Oldcastle	—	—	—	
Omagh	—	—	—	
Parsonstown	—	—	—	
Rathdown	—	—	—	
Rathdrum	—	—	—	
Rathkeale	—	—	—	
Roscommon	-	6	-	-- These cases were admitted provisionally, and subsequently allowed by the Board; no distinct resolution on the subject, further than the entry before the application book, as follows: "Very urgent, being cases of fever provisionally admitted on 7th February, and allowed on 13th February, 43." The idiot wards were appropriated for their reception, by order of Lord Crofton.
Roscrea	78	—	—	
Scariff	—	—	—	
Shillelagh	1	-	-	-- The guardians having agreed with committee of Cornew Fever Hospital, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per head per diem, patients afflicted with fever are sent there.
Skibbereen	—	—	—	
Sligo	1	—	—	
Strabane	1	—	—	
Stranorlar	—	—	—	
Swineford	—	—	—	
Thurles	—	—	—	
Tipperary	—	—	—	
Tralee	—	—	—	
Trim	—	—	—	
Tuam	—	—	—	
Tullamore	—	—	—	
Waterford	14	18	-	-- Four of these cases were from Waterford, and will not be charged for: the remainder will be charged to the respective electoral divisions to which they belonged.
Westport	—	—	—	
Wexford	10	-	-	At the rate of 1 *s.* per head per day.
	218	671	8	

Number of Houses hired for the reception of Poor Persons in Fever, under the 16th Clause of the said Act - - - - - 6

Names of Unions in which such Houses have been hired - - - - Abbeyleix, Ardee, Magherafelt, Midleton, Newtownards.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

FEVER HOSPITAL.

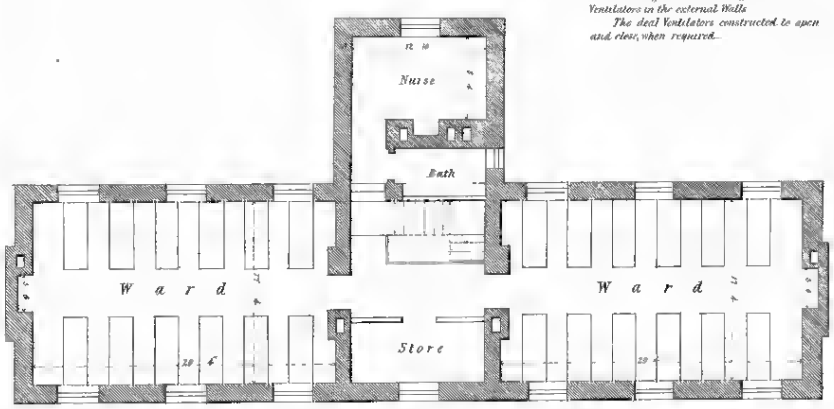
No. 1.

Probable Cost £600 exclusive of Furniture.

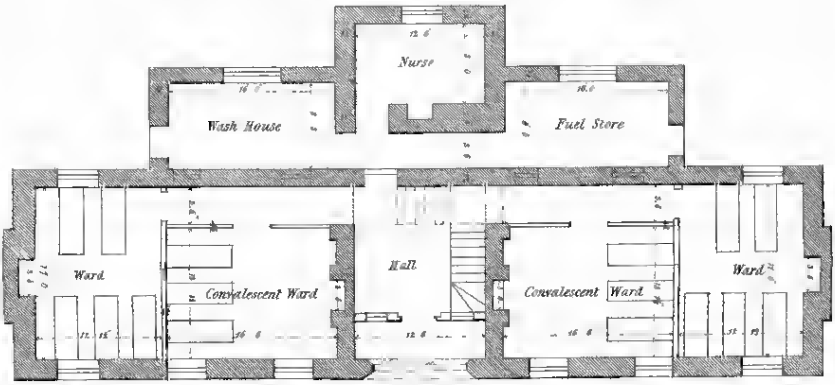
FRONT ELEVATION.

Obs. *The mode of Ventilation adopted by the Commissioners, is to have deal sparred Ventilators in the Ceilings communicating with Cast iron Ventilators in the external Walls.*

The deal Ventilators constructed to open and close, when required.



ONE-PAIR PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

Geo Wilkinson Archt. 1844

346. Ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed June 4th 1844.
Jones & Lake Inner Howard Printers.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

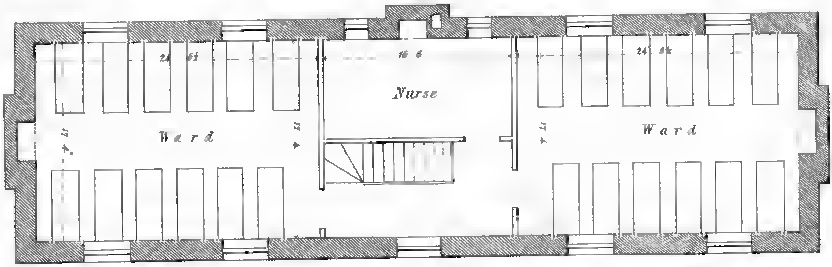
Nº 2.

Probable cost 450 £ exclusive of Furniture

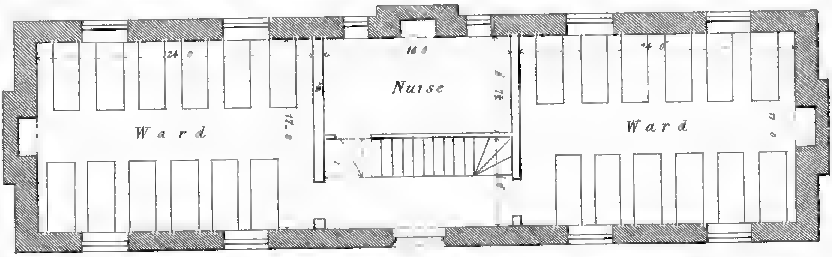
FEVER HOSPITAL.

FRONT ELEVATION.

Obs. *The mode of Ventilation adopted by the Commissioners is to have deal sparred Ventilators in the Ceilings communicating with Cast-iron Ventilators in the external walls. The Deal Ventilators constructed to open and close, when required.*



UPPER PLAN



GROUND PLAN

Scale

Feet 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 Feet

Geo Wilkinson, Archt
Feby 1844

Ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed June 4th 1844.
Sam. R. Lake, Assoc. Howard, Printer.
Sig. & Hight, lith. to the Queen

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

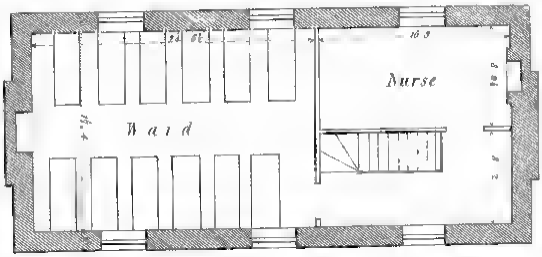
FEVER HOSPITAL.

Nº 3.

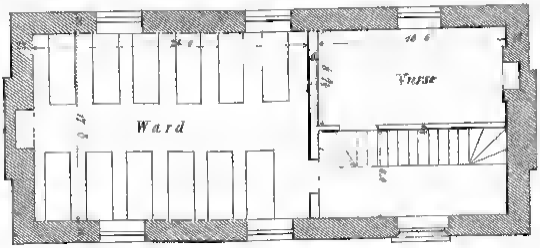
Probable cost 310 £ exclusive of Furniture

FRONT ELEVATION.

Obs *The mode of Ventilation adopted by the Commissioners, is to have deal sparred ventilators in the Ceilings, communicating with Cast-iron Ventilators in the external walls; The deal Ventilators constructed to open and close when required.*



UPPER PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

Scale
Feet 10 5 0 10 20 30 Feet

Geo Wilkinson, Archt
Feby 1844

348. Ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed June 4th 1844
Jones & Lake, Jacob Howard, Printers

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit